

Blindfold Me and Get Me a Guide Dog

by Bob Pulliam

At least in the cold months there is a direction to look. When it gets warm, flesh is flashing everywhere. You would have to be blind not to see the constant parade of immodesty. Truly sad is the fact that some members of the church condone such, and some participate (hoping not to be seen by any of the other members, while hoping to be too well seen by the world). Are they Christians, or worldlings in sheep's clothing? Jesus noted that a tree is known by it's fruit. Unfortunately, there are church members who peel down to the flesh and show off for the world.

Adults, make sure your children and grandchildren study this. They are very vulnerable. Naturally, you need to read on as well... The excuses for this behavior are numerous. But the truth is, there is no excuse.

I Dress This Way Because...

...It's Hot and I'll Pass Out. Isn't it amazing? How did people survive 100 years ago? They kept themselves covered in public, and didn't even have air conditioning! They knew what ice was, but not everyone had access to it (it was delivered to your house). They walked to more of the places they had to go, and had none of the modern conveniences which cut down on our need to exert ourselves today. I know it's hot and humid outside in the summer. And I can guarantee that no one sweats more than I do (I know that isn't a pretty thought). But the heat is no excuse.

...No One Will Lust Because I'm Not Attractive. You'd better take another look around. It takes all kinds to make this world go >round. Many tastes can be seen by sitting back and noticing who is attractive to whom. I've seen some very beautiful women with some awfully ugly men. I've seen real "hunks" with women who seemed to have a bad day C the day they were born. I've seen fat with skinny and skinny with fat. I've seen plain with frilly, and pasty with tanned. But let's just say for the sake of argument that no one would lust after you. Do you really think your actions would befit the demeanor of one called "Christian"? Don't kid yourself. Those actions are conformity with the world, and you need to renew your mind (Rom 12:1f).

...How Others Think Shouldn't Be My Problem. How others think is your problem if you are provoking impure thoughts by your attire! We will discuss this more fully in a moment; but keep in mind that the way you dress is saying something about who you follow and what you find to be important. The person in short shorts does not present a picture of purity and modesty. The problem here is that we don't want to concern ourselves with saving the world. We just want to be like it. Shame on us!

...It Can't Matter Since So Many Do It. That's like saying fornication becomes respectable when we can verify that a certain number engage in it. I know if someone is going to lust, they will do so by looking at someone. But where is your sense of shame that they would be lusting after you?! And this will be a good lead-in for our next section...

What's Wrong With the Way I Dress?...

For years I've heard people try to justify their attire by pointing out that, "If they don't lust after me, they're just going to lust after someone anyway." Seems to me this would be like

a woman becoming a prostitute concluding, "If they don't have sex with me, they're just going to find someone else." In both cases the activity is wrong before anyone else even becomes involved. The later involves fornication, and the former defies the modesty commanded by Paul:

Ain like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works." (I Tim 2:9f)

Whether the attire puts too much on, or reveals too much, women are to observe "modest apparel" in their service to God. Surely God does not want women or men taking an attitude of disregard for the stumbling of others. Jesus said:

ABut whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!" (Mt 18:6f)

Even though offenses (*i.e.* causes of stumbling) must come, Jesus pronounces a woe on the one through whom it does come. If you cause someone to lust, they have committed adultery in their heart (Mt 5:28). You have caused them to stumble. They now stand condemned because of your actions. In such a circumstance, Jesus said it would be better for you to be "drowned in the depth of the sea".

What Is Immodest?...

It would be nice if we could just define the boundaries of hemlines and necklines and leave it at that. We could keep a ruler in our closet and use it when we get dressed. Unfortunately, modesty goes beyond hemlines and necklines. I Timothy 2:9 and 10, it has nothing to do with exposing flesh. There, modest apparel does not attract undue attention. An exquisite gown that costs a fortune, with jewelry to match would be immodest by this passage. I don't think many members are tempted in this area; but they may be tempted in other ways. While I Timothy 2 isn't directly dealing with too little clothing, the principle is still there. Do we really believe that drawing attention with too little clothing would be more noble than too much adorning?

We fool ourselves into thinking that a woman covered from neck to ankles is modest as long as no flesh is showing. Think again! Not long ago, the fashion was to wear clothes with frills sewn on to make it look like lingerie was showing through. It is fashionable for young men to pull their pants down until their boxers are showing? I guess they felt left out and had to show '>lingerie' of their own. Jeans so tight you have to pour their occupant into them?... Why worry about the **heat** in the summer when there are so many strangulations going on during the winter?

Several years ago, a Japanese designer came out with clothing that made it look like it's wearer was in their underwear (kinda like the t-shirts with tuxedos painted on them). What was that about? You know as well as I. And what of shorts with little messages printed across the touche. That just isn't modest in the least, no matter how long the shorts may be made.

The question of modesty isn't really that difficult for one who wants to please God. Many modern fashions are designed around the concepts of sex, lust, and attention. It really isn't that hard to look in a mirror and see what the opposite sex will be seeing when they look at you. And what produces lust isn't a big secret C we just act like it is by going into denial about our attire.

Conclusion...

Children of God will dress like they belong in the family. Thighs will not be exposed and shoulders bared. Shirts will cover the midriff, and the undergarments as well. Clothing will not be designed to attract longing looks (too tight, suggestive writing or material, etc...). A Christian will not be a slave to fashion and the acceptance of the world. A Christian will be a servant of God: modest; shamefaced; considerate of the eyes seeing them. A Christian will be more concerned with what Jesus would think of their clothes, than what peers think.

When you go to your closet to dress; please think about these things. I don't want to see you in town and find that the world influences you more than the Lord. I thought as I was shopping the other day: "Please blindfold me and get me a guide dog.@ C I certainly don't want to say that when I see you!...