

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Timothy 2:9-10**.
- B. God has chosen men to be leaders in the home and church. Leadership should be done by example and through service. One very important area of leadership that men can exemplify is in their dress. If the husbands and fathers will dress appropriately then others will follow.
- C. The Elders have asked that I preach a sermon concerning the proper attire for Xians and their families at the worship services. No one person or family has been singled out. This lesson, as all lessons, are for the congregation as a whole. Make the personal application as necessary.
- D. This sermon has been reviewed by the Elders and has their approval. Therefore, the Elders and I are in agreement concerning this issue. We ask that you prayerfully consider the following things.

I. GOD HAS SPOKEN CONCERNING THE WEARING OF APPAREL.

- A. Man sinned and lost his paradise home in the Garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve had to live outside this pleasure garden God clothed them (Gen. 3:21).
And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.
- B. One of the major areas of where God has spoken concerning clothing was to the OT priests. Note the following verses and their impact on the lifestyle of the priest (Ex. 28:2-4; 29:29; 40:13; Lev. 16:23, 32; Ezek. 42:14; 44:19).
(Ex 28:2-4) "And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. "And you shall speak to all the skillful persons whom I have endowed with the spirit of wisdom, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister as priest to Me. "And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastpiece and an ephod and a robe and a tunic of checkered work, a turban and a sash, and they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister as priest to Me.
(Ex. 29:29) "And the holy garments of Aaron shall be for his sons after him, that in them they may be anointed and ordained.
(Ex 40:13) "And you shall put the holy garments on Aaron and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister as a priest to Me.
(Lev 16:23, 32) "Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting, and take off the linen garments which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there. 32 "So the priest who is anointed and ordained to serve as priest in his father's place shall make atonement: he shall thus put on the linen garments, the holy garments,
(Ezek 42:14) "When the priests enter, then they shall not go out into the outer court from the sanctuary without laying there their garments in which they minister, for they are holy. They shall put on other garments; then they shall approach that which is for the people."
(Ezek 44:19) "And when they go out into the outer court, into the outer court to the people, they shall put off their garments in which they have been ministering and lay them in the holy chambers; then they shall put on other garments that they may not transmit holiness to the people with their garments.
- C. When the Israelites turned from following Baal, they had to remove their clothes that suggested their worship of a pagan God (Gen. 35:2; 38:14; 2Kgs. 10:22; Zeph. 1:8).
(Gen 35:2) So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your garments;
(Gen. 38:14) So she removed her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, and wrapped herself, and sat in the gateway of Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah had grown up, and she had not been given to him as a wife.
(2Kgs 10:22) And he said to the one who was in charge of the wardrobe, "Bring out garments for all the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out garments for them.
(Zeph. 1:8) "Then it will come about on the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, That I will punish the princes, the king's sons, And all who clothe themselves with foreign garments.
- D. These clothing regulations for the priests and other Hebrews were to show that they were different from the world. As NT Xians we too must dress different from the world. We show our allegiance to

God in many ways, one of which is how we dress.

II. CANNOT BIND THE OT ON NT CHRISTIANS.

- A. Now I realize that I cannot bind OT doctrine on NT Xians (Gal. 5:4).
You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.
- B. But we are to read the OT for examples so that our faith will be encouraged (Rom. 15:4).
For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- C. The principle of how clothing relates to the attitude is abundantly clear. In the OT God did not want His people to try and worship Him, if they were dressed in such a way that did not reflect His glory.
- D. The Elders and I believe that principle is still valid today. It does make a difference as to how a person is dressed.

III. A KEY VERSE.

- A. The main emphasis of 1Tim. 2:9-10 is on women and their attire. I believe the principle stated in this verse can equally be applied to men. Parents who train up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord will teach their children on how to dress appropriately for worship.
- B. Paul mentioned the dress of men in the NT when he said that it is a disgrace for a man to have long hair--appearance did matter (1Cor. 11:14).
Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him,
- C. Three very important things are mentioned about attire in 1Tim. 2:9.
Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments;
One's dress should be:

	<u>NAS</u>	<u>KJV</u>	<u>NIV</u>	<u>NKJ</u>
1.	Proper	modest	modestly	modest.
2.	Modest	shamefacedness	decency	propriety.
3.	Discreet	sobriety	propriety	moderation.

- D. Using the three Greek words for these three qualities we find that a Xian's attire should be:
 - 1. (*kosmios*, modestly)--Orderly and proper.
 - a. The primary use of this word is *kosmikos* which speaks of the harmonious arrangement and adornment of the world. We derive the English word cosmos to speak of the perfect, constantly running, orderly, law obeying universe.
 - b. Vine says, "orderly, well-arranged, decent, modest. Not just of the outward adornment, but of the inner life as well." This tells me that a person of Xian character will be so ordered and modest (keeping due measure) on the inside, that their outer dress code will reflect that sentiment or lack thereof.
 - c. Practically speaking this means good personal hygiene, combing or the hair, care of nails, etc. Clothes will be neat, clean, and tidy. Things ripped, cut, or unbecoming of neatness will be shunned.
 - d. This means that I will not wear a tuxedo to the pool--that is not proper or orderly attire for that place. Proper attire is that which is fitting for the need of the moment. For example, you wear different kinds of clothing to different events. You dress in a particular way for a ball game, differently for the beach (pool), for a funeral, or a wedding. Likewise, our worship to God deserves orderly and proper attire. Specifically, the Elders have said, as the spiritual leaders of this congregation, that shorts for men and women, are inappropriate attire for worship assemblies.
 - e. God has always given His best for mankind. The very least we can do is to attempt to return our best for Him in all that we do. You must ask yourself; "In the presence of God for worship, is the wearing of shorts the best dress (attire) that I can do?" Once, while on

vacation I forgot my tie and could not wear one to services. I knew this was not a sin, but I felt uncomfortable because I knew that I was not giving of my best to God in worship. I am not trying to bind the wearing of ties for all men, but rather to share a point concerning our attitude over our attire.

- f. A personal observation: when Bonnie and I were with you from 1979-83 most of the men who waited on the Lord's Table, and participated in the worship services wore ties. It seems that this custom as not continued. Have we allowed our "dress down" society to affect our lifestyle to this extent?
2. (*aidos*, shame)-- Appropriate for others.
 - a. Shamefacedness is not a word we often use today. But the Greek suggests just that. This is a very strong word with serious implications!
 - b. Vine says, "a sense of shame, modesty regarding the demeanor of women. Shamefacedness is to be rooted in character." Too many men and women in this country have no sense of shame today. People say what they wish, do what they wish, and dress as they wish with no regard to personal or others' dignity.
 - c. Especially note this; Vine says that shamefacedness means "having a regard to others that would restrain a good man from an unworthy act." Women (and men) are to dress in such a way as to be sure that their dress would not cause a good person to be tempted to do evil. Men are very easily aroused by sight. Ladies, remember that!
 - d. People are to dress appropriate for others as well as themselves! Before you get dressed you should ask yourself--what will others think?
3. (*sophrosune*, sobriety)-- With sound mind with constant rein on passions and desires.
 - a. Vine says this word means, "soundness of mind, sound judgment. It is a habitual self-government, with its constant rein on all the passions and desires, which would hinder the temptation to these from arising."
 - b. Practically speaking... think it through before you get dressed. Dress soberly and in such a way as to not invite the passions and desires to go out of control.

IV. WE ALL HAVE A THRONE AND A CROSS.

- A. Each of us has a throne and a cross in our life.

If Jesus sits on the throne (as Lord), then self is on the cross (being crucified).
If self sits on the throne (as lord), then Jesus is on the cross (being crucified).
- B. The apostle Paul put it this way (Ga. 2:20; Rom. 12:1-2; 2Cor. 6:17).

Galatians 2:20
[\(Gal 2:20\)](#) "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.
Romans 12:1,2
[\(Rom. 12:1-2\)](#) I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
2Corinthians 6:17
[\(2Cor. 6:17\)](#) "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.
- C. The next time you prepare for worship stop and think long and hard about how you are going to dress.
 1. Will it be to show your best to God?
 2. Will it be proper for the occasion of being with the body of X?
 3. Will it be modest so that you would not be ashamed?
 4. Will it be discreet, so that it does not lend itself to the temptation of others?

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The Elders have no intention of turning people away from the door because of their attire. They also realize that you may be coming here directly from a ball game or other social engagement and have no time to change. If that be the case, come as you are!
- B. Neither do they want to become the “clothes police” always watching what you have on. But when you have ample time to prepare to come to worship, think about your attire and dress appropriately, modestly, and discreetly. This issue is easily resolved--and the Elders don't want to be bothered by such complaints because adults can monitor themselves and their children very easily.
- C. The Elders want to shepherd this flock, a congregation that is concerned about spiritual things and giving its very best to God. Our very best in every area of life.
- D. Be considerate of others in how you dress. The Elders have fielded complaints from several in the congregation concerning this issue. It is not their concern alone!
- E. Give God all the glory He deserves by being different from the world in all things--even in what you wear. And especially, to the assembly.
- F. Come to Jesus.
- G. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.