

## **MODESTY: A PRACTICAL APPLICATION – PART 2**

1 Tim 2:8-10

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- #2. LOVE FOR YOUR MATE
- #3. LOVE FOR YOUR FELLOW MAN
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- #3. MODESTY IS A HALLMARK OF GODLINESS.
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- #5. SINCE IMMODESTY IS A SIN, THE SOLUTION IS CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE.

## MODESTY: A PRACTICAL APPLICATION – PART 2

1 Tim 2:8-10

**(1 Tim 2:8-10)**, “I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. {9} In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; {10} But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.” **(KJV)**

**(1 Tim 2:8-10)**, “I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; {9} in 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, {10} but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.” **(NKJV)**

### RESOURCE BOOKS RELATED TO MODESTY:

- C *Secret Keeper - The Delicate Power of Modesty* by Dannah Gresh
- C *A Return to Modesty: Discovering the Lost Virtue* by Wendy Shalit,
- C *Christian Modesty and the Public Undressing of America* by Jeff Pollard
- C *The Value of Modesty* by Wayne Jackson

### RESOURCE FROM THE INTERNET:

- C [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com) and type in the word *modesty*
- C [www.family.org](http://www.family.org) and type in the word *modesty*
- C [www.purefreedom.org](http://www.purefreedom.org)



**IN THE PREVIOUS MESSAGE** we looked at **THE DOCTRINAL BASIS** for **MODESTY**. We discovered that *modesty* was God’s idea.

**IN THIS MESSAGE** we will consider the **PRACTICAL APPLICATION**.

That is the way Paul did it in his letters. For example, in the Book of **Galatians**, Paul presented doctrinal foundation. In chapter 6 he presented practical application.

I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU, I **DO NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE** speaking on subjects like I am addressing today. I tell you that in advance. I BRING THIS MESSAGE TODAY out of a **deep and abiding conviction** that God wants it spoken. For sometime now, I have sensed God’s **prodding me** to preach on this subject.

As I stated earlier, I have **never preached an entire message** on the subject of *modesty*. I have mentioned the subject of *modesty* over the past few years while preaching, but I never dedicated an entire message to it.

As I began studying for this message I quickly discovered there was more information than could be preached in one message. The **discoveries** I made on the subject were very enlightening.

- (1) I discovered that approximately **98%** of the literature written on the subject of *modesty* addresses **WOMEN**, rather than men. If I had known that in advance, I might have waited until I was ninety years old before I preached on this subject.
- (2) In that **98%** of that material that addresses women, a very high percentage of the information addresses **CLOTHING**. In fact, this message **deals primarily** with **CLOTHING**. So much information addresses the subject of clothing that a **person might think** THAT CLOTHING is the only area where *modesty* applies. The truth is that *modesty* also deals with **behavior**. *Modesty* also deals with the **words** that people use. A person can be dressed *modestly* and have an *immodest* “walk” and “talk.”

**THE REASON** FOR A MESSAGE ON **MODESTY** is that our culture is **bombarded** with a barrage of *immodest* clothing. Clothing stores are now **targeting six year old girls** to sell *immodest* dress. **JEFF POLLARD** has picked up on this trend in American society in his book titled: **“Christian Modesty and the Public Undressing of America.”**

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IN THIS MESSAGE, we look at the **PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS** of *modesty*.

- I. **FOUR REASONS** FOR MODESTY
- II. **FOUR TRUTHS AND FOUR PRINCIPLES** RELATED TO MODESTY
- III. **SIX LIES** REGARDING MODESTY
- IV. **FIVE PLANS** FOR ACTION

## I. FOUR REASONS FOR MODESTY

### #1. LOVE FOR GOD

**(Mat 22:37-38)**, “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. {38}

This is the first and great commandment.”

- S** If our clothing does not reflect *modesty* as portrayed in 1 Tim 2:9, then **our primary problem IS NOT** with *modesty*. Our primary problem **IS** with our love relationship with God. Remember the words used in the **DEFINITION** for *immodesty*: **arrogant, impure, not limited to due bounds**. When our love for God is such that *modesty* is a problem, then our heart’s desire is not to please God. The problem is a love problem. Our love for God is not what it needs to be.
- S** Over the years, the reactions regarding sermons on **TITHING** have been varied. Some people by their smiles let you know they agreed. Other people, by their frowns, express their disfavor.
- S** You may have **HEARD ABOUT** this guy who looked in a church closet and saw a bundle of new brooms. He hit the ceiling. He was upset. He went and found the **education minister** to tell him about the brooms and what he thought about it. He expressed in no uncertain terms that buying that many brooms at one time was a waste of money. The education minister just shrugged his shoulders and said, “I don’t know what to tell you, go tell the **treasurer**.” He did just that! He told the treasurer exactly what he thought. Some time later, the treasurer was explaining to the **pastor** what had happened. The treasurer said to the pastor, “I’ll tell you why I think he was so upset. If you were to look into a closet and see all that you had given to the Lord’s work over the past year in a bundle of brooms, you would be upset, too.”
- S** All that to say, **IF** a sermon on *modesty* **UPSETS** someone, the real problem may not at all be what they might suppose. The real problem may be their love for the Lord is not what it ought to be. We must give God the **highest place** in the order of our life’s

priority. We must not hold out **pockets** in our life for “self.” We must not give God only **98%** of our life, while keeping **2%** for the *world*. Or as one person put it, “We must place **GOD** before **GAP**.”

**S** *Immodesty* reveals a lack of **love and devotion to God**.

REASONS FOR MODESTY:

### #2. LOVE FOR YOUR MATE, WHETHER FUTURE TENSE, OR PRESENT TENSE

- S** *Immodesty* is **A SIN** against your mate. **SOMEONE SAYS**, “Well, I am not married.” That may be true, but chances are high that you will be married someday. Keep yourself for your future mate.
- S** **DANNAH GRESH** is an often quoted spokesman on the subject of *modesty*. Many of her articles are found on the internet, and in various magazines. One of her books is titled **Secret Keeper**. When I first saw the title of her book, I did not understand why she had chosen such an unusual title. After reading it, it was quite clear why she chose that title. The title could not have been more appropriate. She explains that God has given to every girl **“secrets”** that belong to no other person in all the world, other than her husband. God gave those “secrets” to her to be kept for her future mate.

**DANNAH GRESH:**

“Again and again, the Bible reconfirms that this intoxication is only to be shared with one guy . . . and after you’re married . . . Until then, it is under wraps . . . **a secret** to be shared with your husband.” (Dannah Gresh, *Secret Keeper*, p. 21)

**Immodest dress** is an **ADVERTISEMENT** that refuses to keep God’s intended **secrets**. Therefore, **IMMODESTY IS SIN** because it does not show **LOVE** and **DEVOTION** to one’s **mate**, whether that mate is **present tense**, or **future tense**.

TAKE THIS TO HEART – God has **made you for one person** and the **“secrets”** of your body ought to be **reserved** for that one very special person that God has **just for you**.

REASONS FOR MODESTY:

### **#3. LOVE FOR YOUR FELLOW MAN**

**(Mat 22:39)**, “And the second is like unto it, **Thou shalt love thy neighbor** as thyself.”

**(1 Cor 10:32)**, “Do not cause anyone to stumble, . . .”

**S WAYNE JACKSON** quotes from **WENDY SHALIT’S** book, ***A Return to Modesty: Discovering the Lost Virtue***, when he writes:

“**The thesis of *A Return to Modesty*** is that the so-called “sexual revolution” has **robbed society** of many of its most valuable virtues; for one thing, **a sense of self-worth**. . . Ms. Shalit contends that **modesty is not a disease** of which women need to be cured! “It’s high time sexual modesty came out of the closet,” she writes. “Not only can you not get AIDS from it, not only is it morally right, but . . . modesty is really much more exciting than promiscuity.” (Wayne Jackson, *The Value of Modesty*, ChristianCourier.com)

**S IMMODESTY IS:**

- 1) . . . A **PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT** that something is up for public view, when God has clearly stated that it is **not up for public view**. It is to be reserved for the view of one person, and that is one’s mate.
- 2) . . . A FORM OF **FRAUD** as was shown in the doctrinal foundation for this message. *Immodesty* reveals God’s “secrets” to others in spite of the fact that God has clearly revealed they belong only to one’s mate.
- 3) . . . **IS NOT LOVE! BRAD HENNING** defines love as “choosing the highest good for the other person.”

(www.bradhenning.com)

**C The world’s love is** so different from God’s love. The world’s love is **LIKE THE GUY WHO SAYS HE LOVES ORANGES**. He takes the orange and squeezes it until it is soft. Then he takes a plug out of it and squeezes all the juice out and drinks it. He then wipes his mouth, throws the orange in the trash and says, “Man, I love oranges.”

**S REAL LOVE FOR NEIGHBORS** does not offer something that God clearly states is not available to offer. Real love does not *defraud* a neighbor. Real love defends a neighbor.

**S DENNIS** and **BARBARA RAINEY** express that understanding of love: **“MODESTY IS** humility expressed in dress; a desire **to serve others**, particularly men, and not promote or provoke sensuality or lust.” (FamilyLife.com)

REASONS FOR MODESTY:

- #1. LOVE FOR **GOD**
- #2. LOVE FOR YOUR **MATE**
- #3. LOVE FOR YOUR **FELLOW MAN**

### **#4. LOVE FOR YOURSELF**

**(Mat 22:39)**, “. . . Thou shalt love thy neighbor as **THYSELF**.”

**S** Do you realize that **IT IS A SIN not to love yourself?** By “love,” we do not mean sinful and selfish love. We mean God’s holy love. It is like **one little kid** who said, “I know I’m somebody special, ‘cause God don’t make no junk.”

**S IMMODESTY IS AN EXPRESSION OF INSECURITY.**

*Immodesty* is a statement that the only way to get the attention of some other person is to reveal one’s “secrets.” A counselor once told me that a person who goes to excess to decorate their body so that they might present themselves attractive to others, is really crying out that they do not like who they are.

**S** On the other hand, **MODESTY IS AN EXPRESSION OF FAITH**. It is a nonverbal statement that says God is in control and that God can bring the right person into a person's life at the right time, and that God does not need any extra bells and whistles to get it done.

**S DANNAH GRESH**

"No matter how much temporary attention *immodesty* may gain you, **it will never equal** the thrill of passion that follows a life protected by the power of modesty." (Dannah Gresh, *Secret Keeper*, p. 48)

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**S THE SIN OF IMMODESTY is fourfold:**

- 1) Is it a sin against **GOD**
- 2) Is it a sin against **YOUR MATE**
- 3) Is it a sin against **YOUR FELLOW MAN**
- 4) Is it a sin against **YOURSELF**. *Immodest* people often end up hurting themselves more than anyone else.

I. REASONS FOR MODESTY

**II. FOUR TRUTHS AND FOUR PRINCIPLES**  
**RELATED TO MODESTY**

**FOUR TRUTHS:**

**#1. MODESTY IS A "HEART" ISSUE.**

**S MODESTY IS A HEART ISSUE!** BY "HEART," WE DO NOT MEAN that muscle that pumps blood. We are talking about a person's inner most being. The "heart" refers to a person's **spiritual guidance system**. We are talking about the primary place of **God's focus** in our lives.

**(1 Sam 16:7)**, ". . . Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the **HEART**."

**S IT IS AMAZING THE THINGS THAT CLOTHING CAN REVEAL.**

**(1) CLOTHING CAN REVEAL A PERSON'S OCCUPATION.** It is possible to see a person's clothing from a distance and tell their **OCCUPATION** without having ever talked to them.

FOR EXAMPLE:

- 1) If you see a man **dressed in blue** with a **badge** and **gun** on his belt, you are fairly safe in concluding that he is a **POLICEMAN**.
- 2) If you see a man **dressed in white**, you are fairly safe in assuming that he is in the **NAVY**.
- 3) **Nurses** and **nuns** display their occupation by the clothing that they wear.

A PERSON'S OCCUPATION is often manifest by the clothing they wear.

**(2) IN LIKE MANNER, A PERSON'S CHARACTER and VALUES** are often manifest by the clothes they wear. **WARDROBES ARE public statements** of **personal and private values**. Wardrobes reveal character, values and motives.

**C (Mat 7:20)**, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

**C (Mark 7:21, 23)**, "For from within, out of **the heart** of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, . . . {23} All these evil things come **from within**, and defile the man."

**S CLOTHING IS** an **outward manifestation** of the inward condition of the heart, whether good, or bad.

**S C. J. MAHANEY**

"Immodesty — is much more than wearing a low-cut skirt or a

dress. Immodesty is an expression of arrogance. Immodesty reveals the absence of humility. Immodesty is the act of drawing undue attention to yourself. A modest heart always precedes modest dress.” (from [www.FamilyLife.com](http://www.FamilyLife.com) / June 16-18 radio broadcast transcripts)

S That is why we say:

#1. MODESTY IS A “HEART” ISSUE.

## #2. IF YOU DANGLE THE WRONG BAIT, YOU WILL CATCH THE WRONG FISH.

S I grew up fishing. I love to fish. Be it known, if you put **stink bait** on a hook and throw it out on the bottom of a lake, chances are good you are going to catch a **catfish**. On the other hand, if you take a quality lure and pull it through the water during the right season, you will catch a quality **salmon**. **You generally catch what you fish for.**

S Consider carefully what I am about to say, **Immodesty is THE WRONG BAIT**. You **may catch a fish**, but he is going to be an old **mudcat**. Chances are good that she won’t be catching a keeper. You won’t catch a trophy fish. Chances are good you will not catch the kind of guy you would want to spend the rest of your life with. It is unlikely that you will catch the kind of guy that you want to raise your children.

S TWO QUOTES:

### (1) DANNAH GRESH

“A girl needs to know that she **invites** a host of assumptions about her character when she dresses in a provocative manner. Sexy clothes grab attention, but for all the wrong reasons. A boy attracted for the wrong reasons has little concern about what is special or lovely about her. It cheapens her by playing into male influence” (*Light Magazine*, pg 5)

### (2) DANNAH GRESH

“... Sometimes a girl can attract the wrong kind of guy with what she wears. I don’t even mean a really, really bad guy. You could just attract a really, really nice guy whose moral standards have been suddenly and terribly weakened. The next thing you know, you’re in a relationship that’s headed down the wrong path fast.” (p. 36)

S **ON THE OTHER HAND**, *modesty* in dress may get **fewer strikes**, using fishing terminology, but it can serve as strong protection for finding right kind of man. Dignity in your dress **invites and encourages a guy of dignity** and character to be attracted to you.

### S DANNAH GRESH

“Modesty is a great paradox. Though an immodest woman creates insatiable curiosity in a guy, it is the modest girl whose heart he most desires. . . . Crazy isn’t it?” (pg 59).

#1. MODESTY IS A “HEART” ISSUE.

#2. **THE WRONG BAIT**, CATCHES THE WRONG FISH.

## #3. MODESTY IS A HALLMARK OF GODLINESS.

S REMEMBER THE DEFINITIONS of **MODESTY** and **IMMODESTY?**

### (1) **IMMODESTY** MEANS:

Not limited to due bounds, arrogant, impure, indecent. It is linked to sensuality, allurements, self-centeredness, and self-glorification. **It presses beyond** what is proper as Adam did when he ate the fruit that God told them not to. *Immodesty does not limit itself* to the boundaries that God has set.

### (2) **MODESTY** MEANS:

Restrained by a sense of propriety; hence, not forward or bold; not presumptuous or arrogant; not boastful. Not loose; not lewd.

**S TO BE “GODLY” MEANS** to manifest the character of God through our lives. *Modesty* is one of those godly manifestations.

**S JESUS SAID**

**(Mat 5:8)**, “Blessed are the **PURE** in heart: for they **shall see God.**”

#1. MODESTY IS A “HEART” ISSUE.

#2. **THE WRONG BAIT**, CATCHES THE WRONG FISH.

#3. MODESTY IS A **HALLMARK OF GODLINESS.**

#### **#4. IMMODESTY IS A DISTRACTION TO GODLY MEN.**

**S** It might surprise some folks, but **godly men do not like to see** uncovered women. That statement is not true regarding every man, but it is true regarding *godly men*. Godly men do not want to see the “secrets” that belong to someone else.

**S PASTOR C. J. MAHANEY** asked some young men in his church to write down their thoughts about how women dress (from [www.FamilyLife.com](http://www.FamilyLife.com) / June 16-18 radio broadcast transcripts). Consider a couple of their responses:

- (1) "God has created his church to be a resting place for Christians; to be a place where people encounter God without all the distractions. It is disappointing when I walk into the church or an event with the church and have to deal with the same temptations that I face in the world, but I rejoice whenever I see a girl or woman that is attempting to serve the Lord and guys by dressing modestly. Glory to God for women like that."
- (2) “The one place where I might think not to have to face temptation is at church, but this is not always the case. When ladies that I’m friends with dress immodestly, it definitely has a negative effect on our friendship. When she dresses immodestly, it doesn’t make it easy to see her as a sister in Christ. There is a constant battle going on as I’m talking with her. Communication becomes more difficult, because as I’m trying to listen to her, I am also trying to fight

temptation. I also think some ladies just aren’t aware."

#1. MODESTY IS A “HEART” ISSUE.

#2. **THE WRONG BAIT**, CATCHES THE WRONG FISH.

#3. MODESTY IS A **HALLMARK OF GODLINESS.**

#4. IMMODESTY IS A **DISTRACTION FOR GODLY MEN.**

#### **FOUR PRINCIPLES:**

##### **#1. MODESTY IS THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE IN THE WALK OF PURITY.** (Dannah Gresh, p 49)

**S** You have heard the old **FROG ILLUSTRATION**. If you put a frog in a boiling pot of water he will react and jump out. But if you put a frog in a pan of cold water and slowly turn up the heat under the pan, he will not know to jump out. He will be boiled to his death.

**S** *Immodesty* is **the first indicator** that the fire has been turned on under the pan. When *immodesty* begins to take root in a person’s life, then **the pot is on the fire** and the temperature is increasing. The problem is that person may not be aware of their condition for the same reason that the frog didn’t know it was in trouble.

#### **S DANNAH GRESH**

**“Immodesty removes the obstacles** and invites any passing guy to desire you in his mind. It’s a cheap thrill requiring no investment on his part. It offers him the power of your body at his control. He is motivated by lust. . . . *Modesty* protects the true secrets of your body for one man, requiring him to invest into your life in order to one day enjoy your allure. It invites a guy to earn your virtue.” (p. 46)

**S Don’t let down your defenses!**

PRINCIPLE:

## #2. "WHEN IN DOUBT, MODESTY IS THE BEST POLICY."

(*Unsuitable Fashion Trends*, Dennis & Barbara Rainey)

- S** **MY WIFE** says about checking whether clothes are *modest* or not, "If you have to ask, **"Is it modest?"**, then the answer is **"no."**"
- S** A major reason **a person has to ask** whether something is *modest*, or not, is there is some **doubt**. If a person consistently ignores their **conscience's first instincts**, they will become **desensitized**. That is why the Bible says:
- (Heb 4:7)**, ". . . Today, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."
- S** We do not remain the same when we reject God's inner guidance for our heart. That truth can be illustrated in several areas of life.
- (1) It can be illustrated in the realm of **DRUGS**. How many young folks started out drinking thinking they would never try drugs. I could tell you stories of people who believed that lie, and it was not long until they had gone to drug use.
- (2) It can be illustrated in the realm of **PORNOGRAPHY**. The person who is involved with pornography once had a sensitive conscience that told him that it was wrong. One day he viewed less offensive material. Perhaps it was just a book from the library. Soon he began channel surfing looking for something more revealing. Before long he was involved in pornography.
- S** "If you have to ask, **"Is it modest?"**, then chances are good that the answer is **"no."**"

PRINCIPLES:

- #1. MODESTY IS **THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE** IN THE WALK OF PURITY.  
#2. **WHEN IN DOUBT, MODESTY IS THE BEST POLICY.**

## #3. YOUR WARDROBE SHOULD DEMONSTRATE LOYALTY TO CHRIST.

**(1 Tim 2:9-10)**, "In 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, {10} but, which is proper for women **professing godliness**, with good works."

- S** In the daily devotions found in our *Operation Multiplication* materials is a wonderful example of what it means to glorify Christ. A **MISSIONARY** visited some friends in Thailand. They all sat together at the dining table. In the process of conversation several comments were made regarding a beautiful **orchid** in the center of the table. Not long after leaving the home, the missionary asked his party how many of them could remember the **vase** at the table's center used to hold the orchid. No one among them could recount what the vase looked like. They had all been so captivated by the beauty of the flower that no one had taken much notice of the vase. (A *Call to Joy - Discipled's Guide*, page 89, From the **OPERATION MULTIPLICATION**)
- C** Listen, **JESUS is the FLOWER, we are the VASE!**
- S** Seldom does a person look at a breathtaking painting and walk away talking about the frame that highlighted the beautiful picture.
- C** **JESUS** is the **PAINTING**, and we are the **FRAME**.
- S** While in **COLLEGE** we had **VARIOUS DISCUSSIONS** at different times regarding what was proper to wear to church. Those discussions still take place today. **One should wear that which brings the most attention to God, and the least attention to one's self**. By way of general principle, we ought to wear *our best* for God. If we do not wear our *best* for God, then whose our best for?
- S** We are the **vases**. We are the **frames**. It is Jesus who is the Rose of Sharon. One's wardrobe should reflect the character of God, rather than seek glory for self.

PRINCIPLES:

- #1. MODESTY IS **THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE** IN THE WALK OF PURITY.
- #2. **WHEN IN DOUBT, MODESTY IS THE BEST POLICY.**
- #3. **WARDROBE SHOULD SHOW LOYALTY TO CHRIST.**

**#4. MODESTY IS NOT LIMITED TO WHAT A PERSON WEARS.**

**S** A person's **CONVERSATION** can communicate *immodesty*. The human body can be made to sway in such a manner so as to **incite lust**. **Hands** can be the source of vulgar communication. Without a word ever being spoken a person can communicate *immodesty* with their **touch**.

- I. **REASONS** FOR MODESTY
- II. **TRUTHS & PRINCIPLES** RELATED TO MODESTY

**III. SIX LIES REGARDING MODESTY**

**S** We live in a **culture** that not only **condones** *immodesty*, in many instances, it also **promotes**.

**S** **THE REASON** *IMMODESTY* HAS TAKEN SUCH ROOT in our culture **IS** that **THE LIES** regarding *modesty* have **been believed**.

**S** CONSIDER **SIX LIES** RELATED TO *MODESTY*:

**LIE #1 – "IMMODESTY IS NOT A SIN."**

**(Gen 3:21)**, "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and **CLOTHED THEM.**"

**FACT** - **GOD CLOTHED THEM.** In other words, **CLOTHING WAS GOD'S IDEA!** God was in the clothing business long before **J. C. Penny** ever came into existence. That makes a person ask a very important question.

**WHY DID GOD CLOTHE THEM?** My opinion, based on sanctified speculation, is:

**GOD KNEW** THAT IN THEIR FALLEN STATE OF SIN, **THEIR TEMPTATION** TOWARD SEXUAL SIN WOULD BE GREATER THAN THEY WOULD BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING, **THEREFORE, GOD CLOTHED THEM.**

**S** **When we** take off, what God has put on, then we sin. Mark it down clear and plain – ***immodesty is a sin!*** We must not minimize the problem by calling it something other than what it is.

**S** I remind you that **when JESUS was on earth** that He was perfect and without sin, and **He wore clothes**. When the authorities wanted to humiliate Jesus, they stripped Him and hung Him on a cross. The design was to shame Jesus by removing His clothing. When Jesus revealed Himself at the beginning of Revelation, He was "clothed with a garment down to the foot." He also had on a "golden band" (Rev 1:13). Someday, when Jesus' returns, He will be "clothed with a robe dipped in blood" (Rev 19:13). Someday in heaven, we will be clothed in white robes of righteousness.

**(Rev 19:8)**, "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

**LIE #2 – "IMMODESTY IS JUST FASHION."**

**S** That statement is a lie. Fashion does not justify *immodesty*. It is common to hear a young person justify what they are wearing based on the well-worn statement, "Well, everybody else is wearing it." Fashion is OK if it is *modest*. But fashion is never OK if it is *immodest*.

**C** **FASHION DOES NOT JUSTIFY** *immodest* dress just because it is **PROM NIGHT**.

C **FASHION DOES NOT JUSTIFY** *immodest* dress just because it is **WEDDING DAY**.

S Jesus is the rose, and we are the vases. It is OK to be fashionable, but it is never OK to be *immodest*.

S **C. J. MAHANEY**

“Immodesty — is much more than wearing a low-cut skirt or a dress. Immodesty is an expression of arrogance. Immodesty reveals the absence of humility. Immodesty is the act of drawing undue attention to yourself. A modest heart always precedes modest dress.”  
(from [www.FamilyLife.com](http://www.FamilyLife.com) / June 16-18 radio broadcast transcripts)

### **LIE #3 – “OUTWARD BEAUTY IS OF GREATER VALUE THAN INWARD BEAUTY.”**

S Prospective husbands and wives, **DO NOT make outward appearance** the first consideration when it comes to the pursuit of a mate. Jezebel was probably beautiful, but she was a snake in disguise.

S A young lady was not physically attractive. Her godly character was such an attraction that her peers voted her the most respected in the group. She was one of the favorites of the group. She did not feel she needed to prove herself to others. She did not seek attention through expressions of *immodesty*. She was very secure in whom God had made her. She was possessed of a godly inward beauty.

### **LIE #4 – “THERE IS NO CORRELATION BETWEEN IMMODESTY AND PROMISCUITY.”**

S **Wayne Jackson** refers to **WENDY SHALIT’S** book, ***A Return to Modesty: Discovering the Lost Virtue***, when he writes:  
“She contends that the break-down of modesty among young girls has led to an exploding level of promiscuity, and that “**every single study**” of this moral degeneracy has revealed that “low self-esteem is correlated with early intercourse for girls.””

C **“The Indianapolis News** once wrote, “Those who minimize the correlation between immodesty and sexual promiscuity deceive themselves and others . . . ” (Dannah Gresh)

C **“The Medical Institute for Sexual Health (MISH)** has listed **five factors** that place a girl at **the highest risk** of sexual activity at any early age. A girl who “looks older than she actually is” is one of the factors listed.” (Dannah Gresh)

C **DANNAH GRESH**

“These girls are made to look older by fashion and make-up, most of which hints at or blatantly advertises her sexuality. There is **a strong case to argue** that the end result of today’s immodest fashion is sexual promiscuity. I don’t know about you, but I want to remove anything that places my sweet daughter at risk of having her heart broken by sexual sin.”

### **LIE #5 – “THE GIRLS DON’T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING WHEN THEY DRESS IMMODESTLY.”**

S When I tried that statement on my wife, she said, “O, yes they do know!”

S **TWO FRIENDS** were drinking coffee together. One mother was **lamenting over the girl her young son was dating**.

“She’s wearing **a belly ring!**” she cried.

“**Sometimes girls don’t realize what they’re doing,**” I suggested.

“**She knows what she’s doing!** I ASKED HER what the motivation was in having a belly ring,” said this frightened mother with a look of sadness on her face.

The girl’s answer?

“**It makes me feel more sexy!**” (from Dannah Gresh)

S THE JUNE 14, 2003 EDITION OF **WORLD MAGAZINE** has an article titled: **“Bathing suits or birthday suits?”** written by **Joe Maxwell**. In that article, teenage girls **try to explain** why

they "wear" what they wear at the beach. If you were guessing, what would you presume? Joe Maxwell and his wife discovered the following answers:

- (1) **MEAGAN**, age 16, attended a Christian high school. She was asked why she wore her bikini. She said,  
"You want to look nice for the opposite sex. It's kind of a competitive thing."
- (2) **A CHURCH YOUTH** group from **Middleville, Michigan** was at the beach. **Eleven of the 13 girls** said they wore **bikinis** at the beach. In a secret poll taken by *World Magazine*, **five girls said** they picked their swimwear in **hopes of** looking sexy for the guys on the trip.
- (3) In a separate survey of **25 female college students**, **two-thirds** of them said they dress "to personally feel sensual and sexy regardless of other's reactions."

**S** Remember, if you use the **wrong bait**, chances are higher that you will catch the wrong fish.

#### **LIE #6 – "THE BATTLE IS JUST NOT WORTH FIGHTING."**

**S** The battle is one **we must fight**. The Bible says to "preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim 4:2). It may be "out of season," but we must be faithful regardless.

#### **S CHUCK COLSON**

"We may indeed be approaching midnight. But if there is any hope, it is to be found in a renewed and repentant people possessed of a moral vision informed by Scripture, respecting of tradition, and committed to the recovery of character. We must be a people of conviction, prepared to offer the world a story filled with courage, duty, commitment, and heroic effort---that will inflame the moral imagination of the West.

Will we Succeed?

Perhaps.

Does it matter? In one sense, yes, of course. In another sense, not really. For our duty is clear no matter what the outcome.

Can the new barbarians be resisted? I hope so and believe so. It has happened before.

But even if they are not, we must go forward in obedience, in hope; even in joy. (from "Against the Night," Charles Colson, pg 182-183)

**S** May God help us all to **"RUN TO THE BATTLE."**

- I. **REASONS** FOR MODESTY
- II. **TRUTHS & PRINCIPLES** RELATED TO MODESTY
- III. **LIES** REGARDING MODESTY

### **IV. FIVE PLANS FOR ACTION**

#### **#1. ADOPT GOD'S WISDOM.**

**S** There is a prayer that God has promised to answer. It is found in the little Book of James.

**(James 1:5)**, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

**S** **Wisdom** is defined as **a heavenly perspective** on an earthly situation. **Wisdom** is **God's perspective** on life. **Wisdom** seeks **God's point of view**. We live in a society where there are **a thousand different opinions** when it comes to clothing. The opinion that we should be concerned about is God's opinion.

**S** TO FIND GOD'S WISDOM it is **paramount** that a person **knows and loves GOD'S WORD**.

**(Psa 119:105)**, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

#### **#2. GUARD YOUR HEART.**

**(Mat 22:37-38)**, "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God

with **ALL THY HEART**, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. {38}  
This is the first and great commandment."

**(Prov 4:23)**, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

**(Prov 23:7)**, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: . . . "

**S** **MODESTY IS A "HEART" ISSUE.** As stated earlier, a person's outward appearance manifests the inward heart. Whatever is in the heart eventually reveals itself outwardly.

**S** That makes it important ***TO DO A MODESTY CHECK OF THE HEART:***

- 1) What statement do my clothes make about my heart?
- 2) In choosing what clothes to wear today, whose attention do I desire and whose approval do I crave? Am I seeking to please God or impress others?
- 3) Is what I wear consistent with biblical values of modesty, self-control and respectable apparel, or does my dress reveal an inordinate identification and fascination with sinful cultural values?
- 4) Who am I trying to identify with through my dress? Is the Word of God my standard or is it the latest fashion?
- 5) Have I solicited the evaluation of other godly individuals regarding my wardrobe?
- 6) Does my clothing reveal an allegiance to the gospel or is there any contradiction between my profession of faith and my practice of godliness? (Carolyn Mahaney, Nicole Whitacre, Kristin Chesemore, Janelle Mahaney (Copyright 2002 Sovereign Grace Ministries, Gaithersburg, MD. [www.sovereigngraceministries.org](http://www.sovereigngraceministries.org), used with permission)

**DANNAH GRESH** offers the following suggestions regarding A PERSONAL WARDROBE INVENTORY.

- A. Make three piles. One is the "**CHEAP THRILLS PILE.**" Into this pile you'll toss all the clothes you've been wearing that invite a guy to complete the picture of your body in his mind. This includes anything that shows too much skin . . . short skirts, or shorts, or shirts, and low shirts and pants . . . as well as anything that shows too much shape . . . tight sweaters, jeans, or T-shirts.
- B. The second pile is your "**POWER PILE,**" into which you throw anything that actually hides the secrets of your alluring body in a fashionable and comfortable manner. These go back in your closet and drawers. These items make up a part of your very high price tag that will require one man to pay very high price to earn your heart.
- C. The final pile is your "**FUZZY FRIEND PILE.**" You're a bit "fuzzy" on these items. These could go either way, so you're going to ask your godly friend to make the decision for you. Whatever she says goes. Don't compromise. (Secret Keepers, page 50-51)

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DON'T FORGET that clothing is not the only way the heart communicates.

**(1) EYES COMMUNICATE WHAT IS IN A PERSON'S HEART.**

**S** The eyes are powerful tools of communication. Without speaking a word, a person can send a message with their eyes. If the heart is pure, the eyes communicate purity. If the heart is defiled, the eyes communicate impurity.

**S** **JESUS SAID:**

**(Mat 6:22-23)**, ""The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. {23} "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" (NKVJ)

**S** GOD SAID:  
**(Psa 32:8)**, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: **I will guide thee with mine eye.**"

**S** THE EYES ARE **WINDOWS** INTO THE HEART. Christians should **take inventory** as to what their eyes communicate.

**S** IS THE COMMUNICATION **MODEST?** **JOB** said:  
**(Job 31:1)**, "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?"

**S** IS THE COMMUNICATION **IMMODEST?**  
**(Prov 10:10)**, "He who **winks** maliciously causes grief, and a chattering fool comes to ruin." (NIV)

**C** WE SING, "**O, BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES WHAT YOU SEE.**"

**C** How about your **HOME, ROOM, OFFICE?** Do you have any **magazines** that a Christian's eyes should not read? How about **TV** programs that you watch? How about **movies?** How about the **internet?**

**(2) CONVERSATION COMMUNICATES WHAT IS IN A PERSON'S HEART.**

**S** Words can **edify**. Words can **degrade**. God wants our conversations to manifest *modesty*.

**C** **(Eph 4:29)**, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

**C** **(Eph 5:3-4)**, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; {4} Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks."

**S** We should take inventory of our words. We can communicate *immodesty* with our mouth.

**(3) TOUCH COMMUNICATES WHAT IS IN A PERSON'S HEART.**

**S** Something as simple as **A HUG** can communicate *immodesty*. A **new Christian artist** by the name of **JOY WILLIAMS** doesn't hug a guy from the front. She only gives "**side hugs.**" She is concerned about what she might communicate through her touch. (Dannah Gresh, pg. 58)

#1. **ADOPT GOD'S WISDOM.**

#2. **GUARD YOUR HEART.**

**#3. DEVELOP A JOINT FAMILY RESPONSE.**

**[#1]. A WORD TO MOTHERS & FATHERS TOGETHER**

**S** **DECIDE TO BE A JOSHUA FAMILY!**

**(Josh 24:15)**, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but **as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**"

**S** **It is important** that you **BE ON THE SAME PAGE** when it comes to the issues related to *modesty*. Do not present conflicting goals to your children. **Sit down** together, and in light of God's Word, come to **common agreement**.

**S** Have something concrete to teach your children regarding the *modesty* issues. **ARM YOURSELVES** with godly information. (Resources are listed at the beginning of this message)

## [#2]. A WORD TO FATHERS ALONE

- S** Dad's, God expects you to take the lead. Don't shirk your God-given responsibilities.
- S** **C. J. MAHANEY**  
"Normally when I see a young lady, still at home with her parents, who is dressed immodestly, I assume there's been a failure of parental leadership, beginning with her father. Doesn't he care enough to protect his daughter from lustful eyes? . . . Is godly, biblical leadership the primary concern of the father?"  
(from [www.FamilyLife.com](http://www.FamilyLife.com) / June 16-18 radio broadcast transcripts)
- S** **FATHERS, you, better than your wife**, understand the impact *immodest* clothing can have on **how a young man thinks**. Do not let her abandon her first line of defense against impurity. Your daughter **is worth battle**. Fathers must take responsibility for speaking to their sons and daughters about the kind of clothing they wear.

## [#3]. A WORD TO MOTHERS ALONE

- S** **C. J. MAHANEY**  
". . . What has this young woman learned from her mother, by lesson and by example? Has she primarily learned about fashion, or about character and good works? What is more eye catching about the mother in this family: her clothing or her character?" (from [www.FamilyLife.com](http://www.FamilyLife.com) / June 16-18 radio broadcast transcripts)
- S** **MOTHERS** must **TALK to their daughters** about *modesty*. It was suggested that you begin telling them **at an early age**. The sources I studied suggest that you teach your daughters before they reach puberty. If you wait too late, they will be less receptive to your explicit conversation.

## [#4]. A WORD TO DAUGHTERS ALONE

- S** What is wrong with asking for your **DAD'S ADVICE** regarding your clothing? He will know what your clothing will communicate to a young man. If he is not available, if you have a godly brother, why not ask him? He knows what boys are thinking.
- S** At the very least, ask a godly friend who has yours and the Lord's interest in mind.

## [#4]. A WORD TO SON'S ALONE

- S** Watch your **CLOTHING!** No godly girl wants to see your sagging pants hanging so low that your underwear is showing.
- S** Watch your **WORDS!**
- S** Watch your **TOUCH!**

### A PLAN OF ACTION

- #1. **ADOPT GOD'S WISDOM.**
- #2. **GUARD YOUR HEART.**
- #3. **DEVELOP A JOINT FAMILY RESPONSE.**

## #4. GET IN THE BATTLE

THE FOLLOWING TRUE STORY is taken from Dannah Gresh's book *Secret Keeper* (pages 63-65).

It was late 2001. One girl's life was about to change . . . all because a teen call-in show talked about modesty.

The phone lines rang that night. Girls like Sarah called in. She told a story of how she'd worn jeans that were too tight to the movies and ended up attracting a really creepy guy. She was so scared that she and her cousin ended up calling one of their dads to pick them up.

A few minutes later, Jamie called in.

"Yeah, I was listening to what Sarah said and that she didn't realize she'd worn jeans that were too tight. As a Christian, when we find ourselves in that situation where we have worn something too tight, too

low, too short, and a guy starts stalking us, all we have to do is pray and God will come through for us. That's the answer," ascertained Jamie.

"Jamie, I have a real problem with that. It sounds like what you're saying is that you can wear what you want to and then when you get yourself into trouble, you can call on God. The problem doesn't start there. It starts when you are in your bedroom putting on that pair of jeans and when you're pulling that shirt out of your drawer. Right there is when you need to talk to God," challenged Susie.

A hot but kind debate followed. Jamie didn't "get it." Susie wasn't about to let her off the hook.

Finally, Jamie said something with the intention of roicking Susie, but it ended up rocking her own world.

"Well," said Jamie, "we can't really know what God thinks."

"We can't?" asked Susie.

"Well, no," said Jamie, "We can't know what God thinks about this pair of jeans or this shirt."

"Yeah, we really can," responded Susie. "It's this thing called prayer where we talk to God and He will actually talk back to us. It's a conversation."

After a long pause Jamie said, "Well, I'm a Christian and I don't know what God thinks."

That's when Susie brought in the big question.

"That makes me want to ask you something," said Susie. "What is a Christian?"

Jamie awkwardly grasped for an answer based upon going to church. The more she talked, the more Susie realized that Jamie knew a lot about God. But she didn't have a personal relationship with Him. Within minutes, Jamie was praying to ask Jesus into her heart.

A new life was about to begin for her.

## **#5. SINCE IMMODESTY IS A SIN, THE SOLUTION IS CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE.**

- S SIN means *missing the mark*.** Romans 3:23 says *all have sinned*. We have all missed God's goal for our life.
- S GOD'S PLAN IS THAT WE **CONFESS** our sin** (1 John 1:9). The word for *confess* means "**to agree with**." Confession takes place when a person stops acting like what they are doing is not a sin, and they start agreeing with God and His assessment.  
**(Prov 28:13)**, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."
- S THE PROBLEM WITH SIN IS** that it keeps a person from achieving the wonderful goals and plans that God has for them.
- S REMEMBER, IF YOU HAVE A DESIRE FOR GOD, IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO COME BACK TO HIM!**