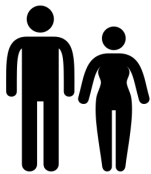


MODEST CLOTHING

REFLECTING THE GOSPEL IN OUR DRESS



1. Nakedness was “very good” from the beginning, but its innocence was corrupted by the fall.

Genesis 1:31; 2:25

Unashamed nakedness before the fall (and after the fall in the context of marriage) is a symbol of unashamed transparency before God.

Some have treated nakedness as shameful in itself, causing sensitive Christians to feel ashamed of their bodies.

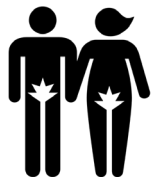


2. It is now shameful to publicly expose our nakedness.

Genesis 3:8–10; Rev. 16:15

After the fall, publicly exposed nakedness is a symbol of the shame of sin.

The church cannot avoid discussing modesty, especially in a culture that views the exposure of nakedness as liberation.



3. Our tendency is to invent inadequate coverings for our nakedness.

Genesis 3:7

Immodest clothing is a symbol of trying to cover our sin and shame with our own standard of righteousness.

Strict dress standards may also reflect an attempt to clothe ourselves with our own righteousness.



4. God graciously provides for his people’s nakedness to be properly clothed.

Genesis 3:21; Rev. 3:18

The garments of skin point to Christ. A fully-clothed person is a God-ordained symbol of the full clothing of Christ’s righteousness.

Symbols do not always correlate with reality. A carefully clothed person may be a white-washed sepulcher.



5. Scripture views nakedness as including the genitals, the area around them (the waist and part or all of one’s thighs), and arguably the whole of one’s torso (God was dissatisfied with Adam and Eve’s loincloths and properly covered their nakedness with shoulder-hung garments or tunics).

Exodus 28:42–43, cf. 20:26; Isa. 20:4; Gen. 3:21, cf. 3:7.

Practical Application:

Clothing should not expose any of our cleavage or buttocks, and should cover both our genitals and the area around them. E.g., Bikinis, short shorts, short dresses, low necklines, and sheer or see-through garments are immodest. We should err on the side of carefulness as holy people, but not make legalistic prescriptions for others.

An improperly clothed person may have the reality of Christ’s righteousness covering their sins, but be unaware of the immodesty of their dress and the inconsistency in their outward symbolism. We should always be gracious and assume the best; however, God wants people to experience the reality *and* embrace the symbolism.

