

Reflecting The Beauty of Holiness

Consider the lilies how they grow
Solomon in all his glory
was not arrayed like one of these.
Luke 12:27

Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

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Dedication

To my wonderful friend Jesus, the fairest of ten thousand, who is rescuing me from the squalor of this world. I give a special thank you to You, because through Your Righteousness I can have complete victory in all things and finally be in the group of those to whom You say “he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” Revelation 22:11

Introduction

It is my desire and deliberate effort to so present this subject through the eyes of our heavenly Father that we will find His call for us to reflect the beauty of holiness, in both character and dress, totally irresistible. I also want to show that we have been cleverly and deceptively led to the wrong conclusion that dressing in the way of holiness is old, staid and disgraceful in this modern world. Satan has masterfully led us to believe that there can be no witness in reflecting the beauty of holiness, and that in so doing we turn people away from ‘coming to the Lord’. These are misconceptions. There is indeed joy in following holiness (“...without which any man shall see the Lord”. Hebrews 12:14). In this little booklet I will endeavour to take away the stigma of “dress reform” and show it to you as I first saw it – in the beautiful light of Christ and His Righteousness.

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The Nature of Jesus

When Jesus was on Earth, He walked with dignity,
When He saw the sick and poor, He felt sympathy.
He was obedient to God His Father, meek and humble,
When He was tested and reviled He didn't stumble.
He gave us an example how to live the right way,
Help the poor, feed the hungry, for the sick to pray.

Men should be the head of the household, in love,
Not anger. Women should dress to please God above.
Modestly and sensible and in respectable attire,
Not with jewellery, costly clothes for others to admire.

Copy Jesus, who rightly could wear a golden crown,
But chose to be humble, saving souls for His own.
Take it patiently when you suffer trials unjustly,
For a little while it's painful and seems ghastly.
You have God's approval and Jesus will help you,
Stand firm in faith and the Lord will pull you through.

By Erika Jurelionis

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Discovering Joy in the Beauty of Holiness

“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”¹ This verse puzzled me greatly; I reasoned to myself that I needed to know the doctrine was of God before I did it. How can you do His will before you know it? It seemed back to front to me.

But I will testify now of the joy I have found in reflecting the beauty of holiness. I have found that as we step out in faith and do His will, even before we understand the subject matter completely, we shall certainly know of the doctrine. As we are faithful in what we know, He grants us increasing understanding and knowledge of His ways. Our God is a very gracious God.

My Father in heaven loves me greatly and wants to protect me in every way possible, and I have discovered one of the most amazing ways He is doing this. It comes in clothing myself in the beauty of holiness. This ‘strange way’ provides me with moral protection, and keeps me from being a stumbling block to my fellow man. In following the beauty of Holiness I have a wonderful sense of moral security in Him. It also affords me better health, enabling my body to function more harmoniously.

As I have determined in my heart to follow His ways I have discovered there is joy in obedience. I now see it a privilege to be able to wear clothing that symbolizes Christ’s righteousness. I find relief in not feeling the need to make myself acceptable to others by wearing what makes them happy. There is joy in being able to put my pride and vanity aside in order to confess Christ, and there is peace in overcoming my personal opinion of what constitutes the beauty of holiness.

It is liberating to be able to disregard the opinions of others, and in quietness make the opinion of Christ more important than my own or my peers. It is far easier to please only One and that is my God.

There is a sense of victory in being able to turn away from the patterns of this world. Stability is found in not being tossed about by fashions and worrying about what will I wear.

There is peace in knowing that I am not a moral stumbling block to the thoughts of the opposite gender. My trust in God is growing as I begin to understand and accept His thoughts and ways. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.”²

I have experienced financial release in saving dollars and dollars on extravagant clothing only to throw them out at the end of the season. There is also relief from spending time in the maze of shops; as I am now able to do other things of greater and more lasting value.

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There is an inner satisfaction in knowing that through Jesus I have been able to overcome in one aspect of my life, which gives me confidence and purposefulness in co-operating with God to overcome in other things.

I have discovered fulfillment in being able to participate in the apprenticeship of Christ, knowing that becoming like Him is what we were originally designed to do. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."³ Service for others becomes easier by dressing humbly; menial tasks are nowhere near as bad as they once seemed because the sense of pride and of haughtiness is greatly diminished.

There is more contentment in taking on the role of cheerful submission, meekness and quietness, and dressing as God prefers causes me to yield more quickly to these traits.

What are you talking about? I can hear you saying. Come with me and I will show you. Let's begin by taking our Bibles for this is the only place where we can learn what true holiness is all about.

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- God's ways are not our ways.
 - They are for our good.
 - His ways bring love, joy and peace.

¹ John 7:17

² Isaiah 55:8

³ Ephesians 2:10

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Our Condition

We are living in the period of the Laodicean Church. We are told that we are in a dreadful condition and we do not even realize it. "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me..."¹

I did not realise this truth applied to me, but now I am seeing how very wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked I really am. It is now manifest that all along I was demonstrating my condition for all to see. My actions were speaking very loudly but I did not realise it. Jesus is coming soon and he tells us; "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."² What does Jesus mean by this verse? As we go along we will be able to understand what the Lord is trying to teach us.

Satan is the father of the naked and of sin. In Genesis Satan is described as subtle: "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"³ In the Strong's Concordance we find that this word subtle suggests nakedness: "to be, or to make, bare"⁴ We know that because Adam and Eve yielded to Satan's temptations they were indeed made bare, yet we also are naked because of sin, and so consequently are in bondage. We have been in "Egypt" as the Bible describes it.

Why was Egypt a house of bondage? Egypt is a name given in the Bible to symbolise this world. It is a prison house or a house of bondage because the prince of this world is Satan. His government is based on falsehood, accusations against the Most High, jealousy, selfishness, greed; everything that feeds the lust of the flesh and empties the soul of love, faith, joy and hope.

In the land of Egypt there was no recognition of the God of heaven; everyone was bent in servitude to his or her own gods - the condition there was the same as the world is today. In Egypt, through various circumstances, God's people had become slaves, yet at the right time God worked miracles on their behalf to free them from Egypt and bring them to the promised land, Canaan. The word Canaan is also symbolic of the heavenly kingdom that we are preparing to inherit when Jesus shall come the second time.

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- We are wretched miserable, poor, naked and blind.
 - We are prisoners in this world bound for eternal death.
 - We need God's deliverance from this bondage.

¹ Revelation 3:15-18 ² Revelation 16:15 ³ Genesis 3:1 ⁴#6175 and #6191

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Our Escape and Motivation

We have the example of others who have escaped the slavery of Egypt. A number of them are talked about in Hebrews 11. Let's examine their escape pattern.

"And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."¹ The context of this scene is after the children of Israel had left Egypt and were on their way to Canaan. They had come to Mt Sinai and it was at this spot that God stopped them so that He could give them guidance. He intended to show them the way in which they were to live that would protect them from going back into bondage again. What a merciful God!

God is not forcing us out of Egypt. It is completely our choice to stay there or come out, but we must realise that there is only one way out and if we choose to stay, there are consequences to meet. He is not willing that we should perish. God reasons intelligently with us so that we can understand His ways and be willing to cooperate with Him. It is in stopping and listening to His instructions that we have safety from the masterful deceptions of the evil one.

It's like being in an army; to win the battle and have freedom from the enemy we must listen carefully to the Commander and follow exactly what He says. This is our only way of escape.

God had redeemed the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt. In Exodus 20 we see that the Ten Commandments were the means by which God endeavoured to keep the Israelites out of bondage from Egypt. While they followed this plan they would have no desire to go back into the lifestyle from which they had so wonderfully been redeemed.

Our motivation for keeping the commandments should be thankfulness and adoration to the Lord for His redemptive act, as well as a desire to keep away from the bondage that held us in the prison house for so many years.

A quick glance makes us think that these commandments are anything but joyous and beautiful. In fact, the general consensus of those in slavery is that the law is painful and undesirable - but in reality these commandments are liberating. Following them gives us a life of freedom from the effects of the sin and wickedness that prevail around us. The commandments of God keep us separate from sin so when Jesus comes the second time and destroys sin forever, we will not be destroyed with it.

"Wow!" You say. "I don't want to be destroyed. I will keep the commandments of God." But it's not long before the reality hits and you realise that you can't keep them. Now what?

Quite simply then, we must fall before the Lord and ask for a new heart: a heart that is like Jesus, one that is submissive to the will of the Father. We must ask for a change of mind and to be given true motivation. We must literally ask for everything, for we are as

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helpless as little babes. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."²

We must ask for a new mind like the one Jesus has. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."³ Jesus wants us to have His mind. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"⁴.

Jesus did not follow His own human inclinations, although He could have, but He chose to set us an example. He did nothing of Himself. He did everything the Father asked Him to do. He is showing us not only that obedience is possible, but also how we are to render acceptable obedience to the Father. "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."⁵

As we pray and strive for the mind of Christ we will find ourselves keeping the Ten Commandments, for it is a transcript of the character of God.

So our motivation to escape this world comes from our gratitude to God for bringing us out of bondage. We see that the escape route is in reflecting the character of Jesus, which is expressed in the life by keeping the commandments of God.

"The knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ expressed in character is an exaltation above everything else that is esteemed on earth or in heaven. It is the very highest education. It is the key that opens the portals of the heavenly city. This knowledge it is God's purpose that all who put on Christ shall possess."⁶

What does the mind of Christ have to do with reflecting the beauty of holiness? We will investigate this further in the next chapter.

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- There is only one way of escape into everlasting life, it is found in Jesus Christ, the WORD of God.
 - To have victory we must be as a soldier in an army, ready and willing to do every requirement of the Commander.
 - We must live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God through adoration and love for what He has done for us.

¹ Exodus 20:1, 2

² John 15:5

³ Romans 12:2

⁴ Philippians 2:5

⁵ John 5:30

⁶ Ministry of Healing p. 457

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Adam and Eve and the Righteousness of Christ

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."¹ Adam and Eve were not clothed with the cloth or skin type of garments that man covers himself with today; they were covered with light. How do we know this? In verse 26 we hear God say "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

Does the Bible tell us that God was clothed? If so what was He clothed in? "Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain."² This passage explains that the light that clothed God was like a garment. Adam and Eve were clothed in a garment of light because it says that they were not ashamed. (We will see later that the angels are also covered in garments of light.)

In Genesis 3 we find that this garment had been removed because they had sinned. When the garment of light had left them they realised their nakedness and felt ashamed. They began to sew fig leaves together in order to cover themselves.

What caused this garment to be removed? We will discover that as something happened in the minds of Adam and Eve it was immediately revealed on their person. The outside was reflecting the inside.

In reading Genesis 3 you will discover that Satan beguiled Eve and she coveted something that was not hers. She turned her trust away from the words of God and let herself be influenced by another master. The lovely character of Jesus she was given as a covering was marred and immediately disappeared.

After Adam and Eve had sewed themselves fig leaves God called to them and they were afraid. Adam said "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked and I hid myself."³ Although Adam and Eve were wearing their fig leaf aprons, they still considered themselves naked. The SDA Bible dictionary says that the word apron comes from the Hebrew word "Chagorah" which comes from "Chagar", 'to gird oneself with a girdle or belt.'" How much of the body does a belt or woman's girdle or even an apron cover? Whatever it was we can be certain that it was only a small piece of covering that left the majority of the body still naked. This type of covering fitly symbolises the inadequacy of man's works to right his condition before the Lord.

Let's continue reading: "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them."⁴ How are we going to find out how much of the body these coats covered? Is it important to know? Yes indeed it is, for God is very accurate throughout His Word to portray in symbols exactly what He means. You will find it is His character to be very specific in every detail, and equally so in this passage.

The coats of skin were symbolic of the Righteousness of Christ. In order to have this covering an animal had to be slain. The slaying of the animal represented the death of

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Jesus in order that the reflection of His character, which was lost in Eden, can be restored in us.

When God made the coats for Adam and Eve they were completely covered, literally, even as the death of Christ completely covers us spiritually. His sacrifice is a complete work of restoration. Jesus did not half save us, He did a complete work for our redemption. He wants to completely renew our minds to reflect the character of Christ and to restore all things that were lost.

What is the dress code of heaven like? We saw earlier that God is clothed in light. As God and Jesus are One, they would both be wearing the same kind of clothing don't you think? When the apostle John looked into heaven through a vision He saw Jesus standing amongst the golden candlesticks and we are told that he was clothed with a garment down to the foot.⁵

In Early Writings we find that the 144,000 are similarly clothed. "And they were all clothed with a glorious white mantle from their shoulders to their feet."⁶ In Isaiah 6 we see that as the Seraphim come to the throne of God to worship Him they cover their faces and even their feet as they sing Holy, Holy, Holy. Complete covering is a sign of worship and reverence to the Most High.

Thus we can see that the dress code in heaven is from shoulders to the feet as it is verified in the sanctuary services of the Old Testament. The earthly sanctuary was a copy of the heavenly, down to every last particular detail. Even the instruments were to be made according to the heavenly pattern. "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it."⁷ So, as we look at the garments of the priests we know they were a copy of the style of dress in heaven. Therefore when God made them coats of skins they would definitely have to have been from the shoulders to the feet. That is the way all dress in heaven above. Jesus is coming to re-clothe us into His image.

We understand from the passages in Genesis that the garment of light left Adam and Eve because the character of God had been destroyed in their minds. There was an outward manifestation that something that had gone wrong on the inside.

It is very significant to note that the first purpose of clothing in Eden was not to keep warm, nor for adornment but in order to cover nakedness. We will see even more that covering and character are profoundly connected. What happens on the inside is reflected on the outside: the law of cause to effect.

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- Adam and Eve were clothed with light, like God and the heavenly beings.
- What happened in their hearts (the loss of purity and holiness through sin) was reflected on their person by the loss of the garment of light.
- God re-clothed Adam and Eve with coats of skin to represent His righteousness.

¹ Genesis 2:25

² Psalms 104:1, 2

³ Genesis 3:9, 10

⁴ Genesis 3:12

⁵ Revelation 1:13

⁶ Early Writings p. 16, 17

⁷ Exodus 25:8, 9

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The Curse of Nakedness

We have all heard the saying 'What you sow you reap'. This saying is true, for the Word of God says "As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come."¹

Way back in the time after the flood we read about a curse that came upon Noah's son Ham, in reference to nakedness. This curse is still in place today. It is not an arbitrary curse, but a universal law that says what we behold we become.

"And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren."²

Inspiration tells us that Ham had disrespect for his father and this was revealed in the fact that when he saw his father's nakedness, which was dishonourable to see, instead of turning his face away and covering his father up. Ham made a joke of it and told his brothers. He showed great disrespect by speaking of his father's shame.

Leviticus 18 tells us that we are not to uncover the nakedness of another person because it is wickedness.³ What, then, would happen if we did uncover the nakedness of another person? Simply, we see their nakedness, seeing leads to thoughts and thoughts leads to actions. This is cause and effect. We are not to look upon another's nakedness. Further on we are told that as we do these things we defile ourselves like the nations around us: "Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you"⁴

Our God is wonderful in telling us these things so we can save ourselves from defilement. How would we ever know if He had not told us?

A curse does not come about arbitrarily. What was the cause that brought about the curse on Ham?

"The unnatural crime of Ham declared that filial reverence had long before been cast from his soul, and it revealed the impiety and vileness of his character. These evil characteristics were perpetuated in Canaan [Ham's son] and his posterity, whose continued guilt called upon them the judgments of God...

"The prophecy of Noah was no arbitrary denunciation of wrath or declaration of favour. It did not fix the character and destiny of his sons. But it showed what would be the result of the course of life they had severally chosen and the character they had developed. It was an expression of God's purpose toward them and their posterity in view of their own character and conduct.

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"As a rule, children inherit the dispositions and tendencies of their parents, and imitate their example; so that the sins of the parents are practiced by the children from generation to generation. Thus the vileness and irreverence of Ham were reproduced in his posterity, bringing a curse upon them for many generations. "One sinner destroyeth much good." Ecclesiastes 9:18."⁵

It is very evident from the Scriptures that there is a curse attached to nakedness. Nakedness can indeed separate us from God. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."⁶

Satan is attempting to use these things to separate us from God. As Paul very positively and emphatically states, the Spirit helps us in our infirmities⁷; Christ makes intercession for us⁸; and because of this we can be conquerors in all things, even nakedness. Yes, nakedness can separate us from God, but it need not.

There is no doubt as to how clearly the fashions of today show our nakedness in some enticing form or another. We will see from the scriptures God's understanding of nakedness does not only mean complete uncovering, but even partial exposure of the body.

A curse does not come arbitrarily.
What we behold we become.
Nakedness is powerful enough to separate us from God.

¹ Proverbs 26:2

² Genesis 9:22-25

³ Leviticus 18:17

⁴ Leviticus 18:24

⁵ Patriarchs & Prophets pp. 117, 118

⁶ Romans 7:35, 37

⁷ Romans 8:26

⁸ Romans 8:34

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The Priests and the Sanctuary

God, in His great love and kindness has given us a wonderful object lesson. The righteousness of Christ is the central theme of the sanctuary and all our ways are found therein. "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?"¹ I praise the Lord that He has made clear to us His ways so that we can follow them and be and do what He has designed for us.

To achieve the greatest sense of satisfaction in life is to be and do what we have been designed to do. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."²

In the sanctuary God gave specific directions as to what the priests must wear. "And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty."³

In chapter eight we will note the term "glory" means the character of God. God is very particular because everything in His kingdom is done in truthfulness and without a lie. God's true followers will happily show God's glory in upholding the commandments including "Thou shalt not bear false witness" and "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain".

If we profess godliness and fail to dress according to God's understanding of holiness we are giving mixed messages to the world. The world calls this hypocrisy. It is amazing how astute worldly people are. If they hear you professing to be a follower of Christ they soon pick you up if you fail. Have you heard it being said: "Oh he won't go there or do that: he's a Christian." or "He's such a hypocrite, he says he's a Christian but look what he is doing." Every aspect of our lives must be in harmony with God's mind to represent Him truthfully and without a lie.

What about "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain"? How does that relate to reflecting the beauty of holiness? Often this commandment is only seen in the light of using bad language and that is true, but that is not the only way to take the name of the Lord in vain.

What is the dictionary meaning for vain? There are two meanings:

1. Excessively proud of one's appearance or achievements.
2. Senseless or unsuccessful: or without achieving the desired effects or results.

If our whole life is not in harmony with God's character what will be reflected? People will hear about one God from our lips and see another god reflected in other aspects of our lives. This will give a false representation of God and thus our life will be used of Satan to cause confusion in the minds of the onlooker or hearer.

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Satan has a very special work for the half-hearted Christian. It is a work that no other can do. "Half-hearted Christians are worse than infidels; for their deceptive words and noncommittal position lead many astray. The infidel shows his colours. The lukewarm Christian deceives both parties. He is neither a good worldling nor a good Christian. Satan uses him to do a work that no one else can do."⁴ By speaking of Christ whilst failing to live according to His ways, we lead others to a "form of godliness that denies the power thereof"⁵; a very vain thing indeed.

"And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office."⁶ The priestly garments were designed to help Aaron sense the sacredness of his ministry to the Lord. So it is with us. The Lord has designed our garments to help us in acting and living sacredly for Him.

In today's world, a uniform is designed for the particular type of work one has to do. A person's career is often recognised by the clothing they wear. Most people wear their uniforms with pride. They have chosen the type of work they want to do and they want to be recognised for their profession. When they have completed their years of study or apprenticeship they are anxious to wear the uniform made exclusively for them.

God has designed us for a special work. He also has special clothing in which He would like us to do this work. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."⁷

In Exodus, it is written that God designed the priests' clothing for a twofold purpose; for beauty and for service. When someone saw a priest they recognised immediately for whom he was working and his type of work. His was a complete covering. A little further on God says. "Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon."⁸

What part of the priest would be seen if he went up the steps? It would be only the lower part of his leg, maybe from the knee down. Even revealing this part of the leg was not acceptable to the Lord - it was considered nakedness.

"That was only for the priests." I hear you say. But the Word of God says we are a royal priesthood. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises* of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God [a conversion has taken place] which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."⁹ Now that we have been redeemed and have chosen to follow His ways we are called a royal priesthood. If you look in the margin* you will see that the verse can also read "virtues". What are the virtues of God that we are to show forth? Is it not His character?

"Everything connected with the apparel and deportment of the priests was to be such as to impress the beholder with a sense of the holiness of God, the sacredness of His worship, and the purity required of those who came into His presence. Not only the

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sanctuary itself, but the ministration of the priests, was to 'serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things.'"¹⁰

How particular is God about nakedness? Remember that "God is the same yesterday, today and forever"¹¹ If the priests were not allowed to show any part of their leg as they went up the steps, how important would it be for both men and women to cover their legs today?

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- The Priest's clothing was designed for both beauty and service.
 - The beholder was to be impressed with a sense of the holiness of God.
 - Like the priests everything we wear is to 'serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things.'

¹ Psalms 77:13

² Ephesians 2:10

³ Exodus 28:2

⁴ Seventh-day Adventist bible Commentary, Volume 7 p. 963

⁵ 2 Timothy 3:5

⁶ Exodus 28:3

⁷ Ephesians 2:10

⁸ Exodus 20:26

⁹ 1 Peter 2:9, 10

¹⁰ The Faith I Live By p. 195

¹¹ Hebrews 13:8

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The Babylonish Garment and Achan

Love not the things of the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust of thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”¹

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”²

What is an unclean thing? We will soon see. The Scriptures will tell us.

The phrase “the love of the Father is not in him” does not mean that God does not love that person. It means that the things which attract the Father, don’t attract him. The Father has a different kind of love, which is not derived from the flesh. In other words, those that love the world do not have in themselves the type of love that the Father has. They have their own fleshly love - the love of the world, which does not come from the Father.

This verse includes everything in life, but in reference to our clothing aren’t our eyes attracted to the glamorous fashions and shimmering sensual materials? I’ve often walked through the shopping mall and have spotted an article of clothing modeled in the window. I have been drawn and attracted into that shop through my eyes and what I saw.

Notice how the shop owners place the racks of clothing just outside the shop doors, enticing you to come in. Have you ever been drawn to touching the garments? They feel so smooth and silky or fluffy and cuddly? Have you ever heard yourself saying “Oh I’d love one of these” just because it feels so nice. Have you ever tried on an article of clothing and admired yourself and thought that it would be a pleasing garment to wear in the company of friends? Have you ever thought “Oh, such and such will love this on me; I will be able to impress them with this garment. I will fit into my circle of friends nicely if I wear this outfit.”

Now read 1 John 2:15, 16 again. Can you see the type of beauty which attracts the pride, eyes and flesh? This beauty is not the kind of beauty that the Father loves. This is the type of beauty that the world loves.

What a precious portion of scripture this is. What love must the Lord have for us, as He warns us that there is certain death in this subtle deception of lustful love! To us it seems so good and nice we could never discern the sensual trap ourselves. Praise Him for telling us what to hold onto, and what not to, if we want to abide forever.

Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

Can the fashions of this world really turn us away from God? Just how does our clothing affect us?

Dear Reader, the fashions of this world are perniciously deceptive. The Spirit of Prophecy says: **"Fashion is deteriorating the intellect and eating out the spirituality of our people. Obedience to fashion is pervading our Seventh-day Adventist churches and is doing more than any other power to separate our people from God."**³ Satan is using the garments of today to keep such things as pride, vanity, coveting and even stealing alive in our hearts.

To understand this a little better and to see the terrible consequences of desiring these 'accursed' things, let's read Joshua 7.

Achan saw a beautiful Babylonish garment. It was obviously something that the Israelites were not wearing for it caught his eye. The Bible describes it as an "accursed thing". "But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel."⁴

The next few verses tell us that as the Israelites went to attack the city of Ai they failed because the Lord's blessing was not with them. Joshua was distraught and called upon the Lord, who replied that it was because Israel had sinned by stealing an accursed thing. "Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff..."⁵

Notice the power and effect that one Babylonish garment had. Achan was caught by the lust of the eyes. He yielded to his desire to have that garment along with the silver and gold, so he stole it. Yielding to his desires caused the blessing of the Lord to be withdrawn from the army. The Lord requires our undivided attention if we are to win the battle over sin.

So Joshua set about finding who it was that took this garment. It was Achan. "And Achan answered Joshua, and said, 'Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done. When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.'"⁶

The Lord is calling the Babylonish garment, along with the money, an accursed thing. Why? Because it drew upon the lust of the Achan's eyes, and the pride of his life and caused him to covet. This coveting then led to stealing and then to lying (dissembling) and finally death.

The Lord said to them: "Neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you."⁷ How serious does this make the situation! God cannot be

Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

amongst us as a people if we are coveting and holding in possession Babylonish garments.

As we read on we find that all his family were destroyed with him. They neglected their duty toward Achan. They did not stand up against the wrong, so they too had to reap the consequences.

When we wear the latest trends of fashion it causes others to covet what we are wearing. Many a time I have heard it inferred that "I don't fit into their group because I haven't got the latest gear they have got." "I won't go with them because I'm not dressed as well as they." "I will feel so out of place." "They won't like me being with them if I am not dressed to their standard."

What is one of the most important things among many people of the world? Appearance: the lust of the eyes. Can you see that these things, which the world calls beautiful, are actually idols and will ultimately be destroyed? Previously we talked about having no other gods before the Father. This is for our protection. The Scriptures are giving us an intelligent understanding of what will lead to certain death and what will lead to ultimate joy and happiness. What a merciful God to be so kind and tell us these things. God is encouraging us to cherish that which He esteems of worth.

"Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to inquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I am the LORD."⁸

For an added emphasis let me redirect your minds to the two scriptures we had at the beginning of this chapter.

"Love not the things of the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust of thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."⁹

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."¹⁰

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- God wants us to turn away from the fashions of the world for they create lust and covetousness.
- Fashion is deteriorating the intellect and eating out our spirituality.
- Obedience to fashion is doing more than any other power to separate us from God.

¹ 1 John 2:15-16

² 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18

³ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4 p. 647

⁴ Joshua 7:1

⁵ Joshua 7:11

⁶ Joshua 7:20, 21

⁷ Joshua 7:12

⁸ Ezekiel 14:6-8

⁹ 1 John 2:15-16

¹⁰ 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18

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The Character of God

Since we have noted that the character of God, as reflected by Adam and Eve, was marred in Eden we will spend a few moments looking at what the Scriptures tell us about His glory.

In Exodus 33 we read about Moses asking God if He could show him His glory. "And he said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."¹

Turn to chapter 34 of the same book and we hear the Lord proclaiming His character. "And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."²

What a beautiful passage! We see that the Lord is merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving and at the same time just in dealing with sin. His glory truly is His character.

In Galatians we see the fruit of the Spirit of God as a description of His character. This is what He wants us to manifest in our lives. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."³

The Spirit of Prophecy says "Man was to bear God's image, both in outward appearance and in character."⁴

The purpose of these pages is to see how the type of clothing we wear can reflect the glory or character of God. It is very evident that there is a form of clothing that causes us to be separated from God.

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- The glory of God is His character of love, purity and truthfulness.
 - We are to behold Him till our characters become like His.
 - The Lord would like us to reflect His character both in outward appearance and in character.

¹ Exodus 33:18, 19

² Exodus 34:5-7

³ Galatians 5:22, 23

⁴ Patriarchs & Prophets p. 45

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The Beauty of His Holiness

Cold to the bone
How raw the pain of ice
All dark and alone
Exiled, naked what price
The birds with their down are cosy
Possums are warm and dozy
But for my shelter I have no device

In the hoar frost I ache
Gloomy dark cold, why did I abuse?
The garment of light for life's sake
His love was mine to choose
The righteousness of Christ
I foolishly sacrificed
My fig leaf devising now wish I to refuse

Having now felt the chill
An abject sore lament
Of sin Oh so ill
My heart utters his repent
And like the prospect of a hot shower
While huddled freezing many long hour
The sweet promise comes of pardon with His own warm garment

"Your covering is not of My spirit"
"Ye clothe you but there is none warm"
Shame is what you inherit
You're as naked as the day you were born
But there is One who has given
As clothing for us His body to be riven

"Doest thou know how thy garment may be warm?"

Do you know the mystery of godliness?
"How can one be warm alone?"
Except Christ give him His holiness
So now no longer cold to the bone
But peace, assurance and life.
Safety, purity, no more strife
For Christ took our curse and for us did atone

And the burden of this allegory
To compare righteousness and confess
My shame? It is no glory
Shivering cold and coverless
Matched with toasty repose sublime
Like the snug warmth of sweet sunshine
Is the beauty of His Holiness.

Anonymous

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me

How much does fashion affect the world?

We only have to open a magazine or look at billboards to see the impact fashion has upon the mind. Every season we see the shops full of new fashions. The beauty magazines infer it shameful to wear something from last season, and we are told we are out of fashion if we do. There are even shops that sell only accessories to go with the fashions. Our personal choice is being overridden. We are told by the fashion-media that only this goes with that, and only this colour combination is acceptable this year. The way in which the advertising companies sell fashions is such that it has become entangled with our sense of self-worth. It is perceived that you are second-class if you are not wearing the current fashion. The fashion industry would even make out that happiness comes in wearing this or that outfit. They lead you to believe that others will like you more in this or that garment and you will be more acceptable by the opposite gender in this or that colour scheme.

Fashion is one of the most powerful gods of this age, and has been throughout the centuries.

“Fashion rules the world, and she is a tyrannical mistress, often compelling her devotees to submit to the greatest inconvenience and discomfort.”¹

“Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: ... And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.”²

“Fashion is a mistress that rules with an iron hand.”³

We have just read that our escape route from Egypt is through the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. When God says: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” we do not see it as something harsh and dictatorial, but as words of loving-kindness. He is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”⁴

Now that we recognise that fashion is a very alluring god, the following words from Scripture have more meaning and are powerful in helping us put away the lustful fashions which not only cause others to stumble, but which also cause us to be turned away from our Saviour.

“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”⁵

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they

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“speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”⁶

“That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:”⁷

Jesus is coming very soon. His purpose is to destroy the gods of this earth and to create the world over again for His faithful ones that have implicitly followed the escape route. Let us not be found clinging to that which will be destroyed.

- Fashion is one of the most powerful gods of this world.
- The Lord says, “Have no other gods before me.”
- We cannot serve two masters.

¹ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4 p. 634

² Genesis 35:2, 4

³ Education p. 246

⁴ 2 Peter 3:9

⁵ 1 Peter 1:14-16

⁶ 1 Peter 2:11-13

⁷ 1 Peter 4:2, 3

Nakedness and the Cross

As we look at the cross we see a dramatic portrayal of how nakedness is equated with sin.

Jesus was God in the flesh. He voluntarily came to restore man to His own image both in character and covering. Jesus was a new man. He is our elder brother who experienced all that we have experienced. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."¹ Jesus came in sinful flesh. "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."² At the cross he became sin for us. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."³

Prior to His death in the judgment hall, Christ was stripped of His garments and a scarlet robe and a crown of thorns was placed upon Him. The crowd mocked Him and said: "Hail, King of the Jews!" They mocked Him by dressing Him in a King's robe. They were making out that He was royalty so they dressed Him as such. He was covered. But they did not believe it, so they beat Him and placed His own raiment back on Him.

Then He was taken to the cross. We are told in Isaiah: "He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities ... because He hath poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."⁴ Because He bore our sins in His body, and our transgressions were wreathed in Him⁵ He was hung naked upon the cross.

We know that Jesus hung naked because Matthew says "And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots."⁶

Jesus, hanging on the cross was literally bearing our sin in his body. His condition as being sin for us was also reflected physically in the fact that He hung there naked, the outward appearance of sinful man. Once again we have it portrayed vividly before us that what was happening on the inside was being reflected on the outside. Sin and nakedness are very intimately connected according to the scriptures.

While taking our sin in Him, Jesus was bearing the outward appearance of sinful man. The pen of inspiration tells us "Man was to bear God's image, both in outward appearance and in character."⁸

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- Jesus bore our sins in his body and our transgressions were wretched in Him, thus He became sin for us.
- Jesus' inward condition at the cross (our sins in His body) was portrayed by His outward appearance of hanging naked.
- Now we are to bear His image by outward appearance and His character of purity and holiness.

¹ Hebrews 4:15

² Romans 8:3

³ 2 Corinthians 5:21

⁴ Isaiah 53:11

⁵ Lamentations 1:12-17

⁶ Matthew 27:35

⁷ 2 Corinthians 5:21

⁸ Patriarchs & Prophets p. 45

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What Is God's Definition of Beauty?

God is encouraging us to cherish that which He esteems of worth. Let us now discover God's definition of beauty in His Word and seek by prayer to be able to cherish His ways.

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:"¹

"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."²

What is most beautiful in the sight of God is a meek and quiet spirit. This is what the holy women of scripture adorned themselves in.

To understand these texts more fully, let's do a study on the key words from the above passages.

Meek Gr. Praus. "The unassuming simplicity of the Christian woman will stand forth in sharp contrast with the self-assertiveness of those who seek to attract attention to themselves with eye-catching hair styles, glittering ornaments, and fashionable clothing."³

"Quiet and ready to do what other people say."⁴ In other words, a person who is humble and ready to serve.

Quiet "Christian tranquility is not dependent on changing fashions but on Christ, who remains "the same, yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb 13:8) and whose fellowship is worth far more than that of fickle men."⁵

"Free from anger, impatience and other extreme emotions, not showy, modest or reserved."⁶

A meek and quiet spirit is the disposition of the mind.

This, in the sight of God, is considered of great price. The material worth of golden ornaments and rich apparel is insignificant in comparison with the eternal value of truly converted men and women.

We are now looking through the eyes of the beholder.

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“It is right to love beauty and to desire it; but God desires us to love and to seek first the highest beauty...that which is imperishable. The choicest productions of human skill possess no beauty that can bear comparison with that beauty of character, which in His sight is of ‘great price.’”⁷

In the above statement we see that beauty is relative. There is no beauty in comparison with a beautiful character. All the skill of man cannot manufacture anything near as beautiful as a meek and quiet spirit.

What relief to know the true definition of beauty. How futile has been my efforts to be beautiful. I praise the Lord that I now know what true beauty is and that I have all heaven to help me in this cause. Praise His name.

Modest Gr. Kosmos, “well arranged,” “in good taste hence, proper” in the sense of being conservative

Shamefacedness Extremely modest or shy; bashful. Shame: a painful emotion caused by a strong sense of unworthiness. Ashamed: a feeling of shame, in this case unworthiness. Feeling inferior or inadequate. The spiritual application of this would be recognizing our unworthiness before God our Maker. In other words, shamefacedness is being modest and humble before God.

Gr. Aidos, “self-respect,” “modesty.” Such an attitude shudders at the thought of shameful deeds, and holds a reverence for purity that prevents such deeds.⁸

Sobriety State of being sober: serious and thoughtful, of colours - plain and dull. Free from exaggeration, frivolity and nonsense.

That is, soundness of mind, self-control. Paul here pictures the converted Christian woman as one whose every desire is to reflect the selflessness of Christ. She determines to fulfill her womanly tasks with grace and resourcefulness, without being a burden either to the church or to her husband.⁹

Godliness Having great reverence for God, pious.

Pious Having or showing reverence and earnest compliance in the observance of religion, Professing or exhibiting a strict, traditional sense of virtue and morality.

Virtue The quality of moral excellence, righteousness and responsibility.

“By participating in public worship these women have openly professed their loyalty to the God they worship.

To profess Christian faithfulness and yet dress extravagantly and immodestly is a form of hypocrisy.”¹⁰

Chaste “pure” “The total life of the Christian wife is to be restrained in style and taste. She is to be known for decorous (polite, calm, and sensible in behaviour) consistency in all things.”¹¹

Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

Adorning “Gr. Kosmos. The English word Cosmetics” is derived from the Greek word Kosmos. It is not fitting for a Christian woman to make a vain display of dress and ornaments to attract attention to herself. Her greatest attraction should be her Christian conduct.¹²

Gold, pearls, or costly array “The purpose of costly adornment, whatever form it may take, is to attract attention to oneself. It is always an expression of selfishness and sometimes, also, of a desire for improper attentions from the opposite sex.”

Plaiting the hair “Intricate, time-consuming hairstyles were a criterion of wealth and fashion in the Greek and Roman world of Peter’s time. The motive was obviously a desire for personal attention.”¹³

Putting on of apparel “This certainly does not mean that we should not wear clothing but refers to the fashionable custom of changing dresses and ornaments several times in a day to meet varying social requirements. Love for an extensive wardrobe has been a deceptive snare to men and women all through the ages.”¹⁴

In continuing on from the book Education we read:

“Let the youth and the little children be taught to choose for themselves that royal robe woven in heaven's loom --the "fine linen, clean and white" (Revelation 19:8), which all the holy ones of earth will wear. This robe, Christ's own spotless character, is freely offered to every human being. But all who receive it will receive and wear it here.

“Let the children be taught that as they open their minds to pure, loving thoughts and do loving and helpful deeds, they are clothing themselves with His beautiful garment of character. This apparel will make them beautiful and beloved here, and will hereafter be their title of admission to the palace of the King. His promise is: ‘They shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy.’”¹⁵

This is what it means by being clothed in the beauty of holiness. As our minds are transformed into the mind of Christ¹⁶, we will joyfully and willingly choose the apparel that reflects what is most important to us. We will chose clothing that reflects a pure, holy character. We will not bear false witness. We will not feel comfortable in clothing that draws the onlooker to things of this earth, but will be keen to reflect the chaste and pure character of Christ. We will find it an honour and be pleased to submit to the standard of covering that brings honour to His name. We will not only wear that character, we will have that Character.

If we sit in the mall and watch the people pass by we can obtain a clear view of their character by what they are wearing.

“Character May Be Judged by Style of Dress.--**The dress and its arrangement upon the person is generally found to be the index of the man or the woman.** We judge of a person's character by the style of dress worn. A modest, godly woman will dress modestly. A refined taste, a cultivated mind, will be revealed in the choice of a simple, appropriate attire. ... The one who is simple and unpretending in her dress and in her manners shows that she understands that a

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true woman is characterized by moral worth. How charming, how interesting, is simplicity in dress, which in comeliness can be compared with the flowers of the field. **What we wear is the index of the heart.**"¹⁷

Our hearts must be converted before we are able to dress or do anything according to God's beauty.

The holy garments of the priesthood were to be a reflection of the internal; that is why God said to make them according to My instruction for beauty and for glory. When we see those garments in the sanctuary we can understand what God sees as beautiful.

"After this manner the women trusted" means in the adornment of character. The godly women trusted on God's promises and rested their hopes for recognition and security in

Him. Their desires were in harmony with God's plans for them.

We have already seen how what we wear affects our emotions and our sense of pride: vanity or humility. We cannot assist God in changing our character if we are counterworking against Him by the outward display of our bodies.

"By participating in public worship these women have openly professed their loyalty to the God they worship. To profess Christian faithfulness and yet dress extravagantly and immodestly is a form of hypocrisy."¹⁸

Paul is counseling men to pray continually with faith and works in the same way that women adorn themselves in modest apparel.

How do women adorn themselves in modest apparel?

With shamefacedness and sobriety in godliness (faith) and good works.

The wearing of braided hair, gold, pearls and costly array is obvious exaggeration and not a sign of being humble, modest or acknowledging our unworthiness before God.

In view of our position before God would it be respectful to lift ourselves up before Him with gold and costly array? "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up."¹⁹

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- What we wear affects our emotions and our sense of pride, thus showing the index of the heart.
 - God's definition of beauty is not found in outward display of any kind.

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- It is found in the harmony of a meek and quiet spirit with unpretentious and un-sensual dress.

¹ 1 Peter 3:3-5

² 1 Timothy 2:8-10

³ Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume Seven pp. 569-570

⁴ Collins English Dictionary

⁵ Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume Seven pp. 569-570

⁶ Collins English Dictionary

⁷ Education p. 249

⁸ Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume Seven pp. 569-570

⁹ *Ibid*

¹⁰ *Ibid* p. 295

¹¹ *Ibid* pp. 569-570

¹² *Ibid*

¹³ *Ibid*

¹⁴ *Ibid*

¹⁵ Education p. 249

¹⁶ Philippians 2:5

¹⁷ Child Guidance p. 413

¹⁸ Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume Seven p. 295

¹⁹ James 4:10

Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

Beauty is a Relative Word

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Beauty to one is not the same as to another person. A sensual person sees the form of the body as being beautiful. To a musician beauty is in music. To a mathematician logic is beauty and order.

Different cultures have different ideas of what constitutes beauty. In the Enga province of Papua New Guinea, for instance, a woman with a wide nose is considered very beautiful. In the Morobe province the men prefer their women to be very large. In some parts of Africa a woman is considered beautiful if she has a very long neck. And so it continues.

So how do we decide what is truly beautiful? Can we find in Scripture what is beautiful in God's eyes?

"Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth."¹

In Song of Solomon, chapter five, we see that the one who loves Jesus says 'He is altogether lovely', and they proclaim Him as their beloved and friend.

The only way in which we can reflect the Beauty of Holiness is to know and understand what beauty is in God's eyes.

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- Beauty is a relative word.
 - To reflect the beauty of Holiness in dress we need to know what is beautiful in God's eyes.
 - This calls us to put away our own ideas and opinions - 'to crucify self'.

¹ Psalms 96:6-9

Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

Using God's Eyes

From the outside of the sanctuary building there was nothing visually attractive. All that could be seen was a fence of white linen and badger skins over the inner courts.

Isaiah tells us that there was nothing attractive about Jesus to the eyes of men.

“For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”¹

Why can't we see His beauty? God could. Let's look at our condition.

“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”²

We are blind. How can we get out of this condition? We need to depend completely on what God can see.

“Open Thou mine eyes, that I may see wondrous things in thy law.”³

David's prayer can be ours in reference to reflecting the beauty of Holiness.

“Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me. I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame. I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart. Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.”⁴

Someone who is wholly devoted to the Lord does not want to lie. They want to speak and show the truth. They do not want to carry the signs of the world. As they are seen on the outside so they will be on the inside.

David's prayer can be our prayer, to have our eyes open to seeing His beauty, to experience the delight of keeping the commandment of God and turning our eyes from the vanity of the world.

Yet to see beauty in the law, something must first happen to our eyes.

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"...anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see."⁵ Jesus wants to anoint our eyes so we can see as He sees.

What must happen if we want to see the kingdom of heaven?

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."⁶

The kingdom of God can be right in front of you and you may not see it. If we are not born again we will not see all the happenings of the kingdom of God that are going on around. To see the beauty of holiness we must be born again.

How does that happen?

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."⁷

Our minds that have been trained to the patterns of this world must be transformed so that we can see that which is good and acceptable to God, the things that God sees as beautiful.

- We can't understand God's beauty because we are spiritually blind.
- David's prayer can be ours "Turn me from covetous, vanity and lying. Anoint my eyes that I may see as you see Lord."
- To see the Beauty of Holiness we must be born again.

¹ Isaiah 53:2

² Revelation 3:17

³ Psalms 119:18

⁴ Psalms 119:29-38

⁵ Revelation 3:18

⁶ John 3:3

⁷ Romans 12:2

Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

Pride and Vanity

A person's character is judged by their dress.¹ The way we dress fosters either humility or pride in our hearts.

In God's kingdom pride and vanity do not exist. To enter the kingdom of God we must be separate from these traits, as these things will be destroyed at the end of the world; if we are entwined with them we will be destroyed with them.

"And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them."²

"Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."³

Is pride a quality that God's people are to exhibit?

"Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer. Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me."⁴

"Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments."⁵

Who wants to be cursed?

"The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow."⁶

"Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished."⁷

Is pride a problem for men also? Yes it is, for they are told to dress in the same way as women are asked to dress. What do I mean by that? Women are to dress with shamefacedness and sobriety. (For more understanding on this point read chapter eleven, God's Definition of Beauty) This passage of scripture holds quite a deal of responsibility for Christian women. We are to be examples to the men by showing humility through our dress. It is obvious then that the way we dress fosters pride in ourselves and also pride in men.

Some Scriptures come to mind:

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“Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up;”⁸

“But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.”⁹

I praise the Lord that He has given us, along with His righteousness, a practical application of ridding from our hearts the heinous sins of pride and vanity.

- In God’s kingdom pride and vanity do not exist.
- No one who is holding onto pride and vanity can enter into His kingdom.
- The way we dress fosters either pride and vanity or humility and meekness.

¹ Education pp. 248-249

² 2 Kings 17:15

³ Psalms 24:3

⁴ Psalms 101:5, 6

⁵ Psalms 119:21

⁶ Proverbs 15:25

⁷ Proverbs 16:5

⁸ Jeremiah 18:15

⁹ Malachi 2:8

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Which God Are You Reflecting?

What is important to us is often reflected in what we wear. What is important to a man who wears a white coat with a stethoscope around his neck? Of course we can see that helping others to good health is important to him. A young boy with his cap on backwards and baggy pants is telling us that walking the streets, acting 'tough' and being called a "homey" is the best thing in life to him.

A woman in a dark flowing robe and wearing a habit tells us that religion is top priority to her. A man in tight shorts, a singlet and joggers is telling us that exercise is his focus.

Everyone is more than happy to wear or wave their two favourite colours for all to see. They want everyone to know that their particular football team is very important to them.

The French model tells us that fashion is her god.

A man with a shaven head and a flowing orange robe testifies to the fact that he is a follower of the god, Hare Krishna.

Notice how keen and eager the world is to wear as a symbol that which they esteem is of great importance. They are not ashamed of their gods.

Everyone makes a statement of some sort by what they wear. Even the Israelites were required to make a statement in their clothing. They could be spotted as they walked along. No one could mistake them for someone else. They clearly told the truth. There was no mixed messages or lies.

*"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 'Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God. I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God.'"*¹

The Lord commanded the children of Israel to make an outward sign that they belonged to the Lord. It was to be something that they would see to remind themselves where the Lord had brought them from, and His commandments, which they were to keep.

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- The world considers it an acceptable thing to reflect your interests in what you wear.
- People are proud to testify of their gods.
- The Lord wants us to clearly display to the world our love for Him by our style of dress in connection with His character.

¹ Numbers 15:37-41

But what about Witnessing?

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men ... And we are his witnesses of these things;"¹

If we want to be Christ's witnesses we are required to witness in the way He wants us to. If we try to witness for Him according to how we think we will inevitably be witnessing for ourselves and not for Christ.

As people have become aware of God's particular preference of dress for His faithful people I have heard comments like "I can't dress like that because I will turn people off." That is true. Something in the mind of the onlooker will certainly be turned off. Is that "turning off" a good thing? Is that what God wants His people to do, to turn something off in the minds of the worldly person? I hear you say 'no', but the Lord actually says, 'yes it is.'

What will be turned off in the minds of the onlooker? Their sensual and lustful desires will be turned off. Sensuality is what is considered beautiful in the eyes of the world. That is why when someone sees a follower of Christ covered in a pure way, without a hint of sensuality or nakedness, their minds do a flip and they don't like what they see. They have become accustomed to all the various subtle forms of lustful dressing and have come to see that (sensuality) as beautiful when God says it is not. So, will the Lord be pleased with the person who turns off the onlooker's mind from sin? Yes, He certainly will. This is the power of the silent witness. When a person's mind is turned off sensuality and lustful thoughts for a long enough period they will become more receptive to spiritual things.

I have also heard people say; "I will not be able to witness and win people to Christ dressed like that." Witness is the fruit of obedience. People cannot be drawn to Christ through the avenue of lust and sensual dressing.

If we put witnessing before obedience we will only reap compromise. Successful witnessing is not gauged in numbers. This concept is a deception of Satan. Successful witnessing is in obedience. To witness successfully does not mean you have to win every person to Christ. The success is in doing things completely God's way even if it appears that you have affected no one. We do not know what seeds we sow in a person's heart. We may never know our influence while on this earth.

"Dear youth, a disposition in you to dress according to the fashion, and to wear lace, and gold, and artificials for display, will not recommend to others your religion or the truth that you profess. People of discernment will look upon your attempts to beautify the external as proof of weak minds and proud hearts."²

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Witnessing is professing Christ in all you do, despite who is attracted and who is not. Jesus was the personification of a perfect witness. How many were drawn to Him while He walked on earth?

“All who study the life of Christ and practice His teachings will become like Christ. Their influence will be like His. They will reveal soundness of character. As they walk in the humble path of obedience, doing the will of God, they exert an influence that tells for the advancement of the cause of God and the healthful purity of His work. In these thoroughly converted souls the world is to have a witness to the sanctifying power of truth upon the human character.”³

We are told we must not make ourselves a gazing stock. There is truth in this statement but we need to read widely on this point to be sure we understand these statements in a balanced context.

“We are not Spiritualists [the meaning of this statement will be discussed in Effects of Unisex Dressing and Hairstyles]. We are Christian women, believing all the Scriptures say of man’s creation, his fall, his sufferings and woes on account of continued transgression, of his hope of redemption thro’ Christ, and of his duty to glorify God in his body and spirit which are his, in order to be saved. We do not wear the style of dress here represented to be odd, -- that we may attract notice [notice that the underlying issue is motive]. We do not differ from the common style of woman’s dress for any such object. We choose to agree with others in theory and in practice, if we can do so, and at the same time be in harmony with the law of God, and with the laws of our being. **We believe it wrong to differ from others unless it is necessary to differ in order to be right. In bearing the cross of adopting the reform dress we are led by a sense of duty. And although it may appear objectionable to those who are governed by fashion, we claim that it is the most convenient, the most truly modest, and the most healthful style of dress worn by woman.**

“We have counted the cost of appearing singular in the eyes of those who feel compelled to bow to fashion. And we decide that in the end it will pay to try to do right, though for the present we may appear odd in the eyes of those who will sacrifice convenience, comfort, and health, at the altar of fashion.”⁴

I found a little key in these last two paragraphs that I used to discern in my own heart if the idol of fashion was still alive. Here is the little phrase “although it may appear objectionable to those who are governed by fashion.” When I found that God’s way of clothing was still somewhat objectionable to me I knew that the goddess of fashion still reigned. The only way I can overcome this is by prayer and submission, asking for a love of obedience in His way of dressing. I have also found that I have to purposely ignore the thoughts that come into my mind as I walk through the shopping mall - thoughts that say people are looking at me, and thoughts comparing myself with others. I found that as I focused on walking through the mall with Jesus, being happy that He is happy, I forgot all about what I might have imagined someone else to be thinking.

Here is a statement from which only the first line is regularly quoted:

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“Christians should not take pains to **make themselves a gazing stock** by dressing differently from the world. **But if**, when following out their convictions of duty in respect to dressing modestly and healthfully, **they find themselves out of fashion, they should not change their dress in order to be like the world; but they should manifest a noble independence and moral courage to be right, if all the world differ from them.**

“If the world introduce a modest, convenient, and healthful mode of dress, which is in accordance with the Bible, it will not change our relation to God or to the world to adopt such a style of dress. Christians should follow Christ and make their dress conform to God's Word. They should shun extremes. **They should humbly pursue a straightforward course, irrespective of applause or of censure, and should cling to the right because of its own merits.**”⁵

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- If we want to be Christ’s witnesses we must witness according to His ways, and give up our own ideas of witnessing.
 - Ignoring God’s ways and using our own judgment is in fact denying Christ and we are only witnessing of ourselves.
 - Successful witnessing is not gauged by numbers.

¹ Acts 5:29, 32a

² Child Guidance p. 421

³ Testimonies to the Church, Volume 6 pp. 96, 97

⁴ Review & Herald, April 14, 1868

⁵ Child Guidance p. 414

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The Silent Witness

likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.”¹

“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”²

Have you heard people say ‘you can witness silently’? How? If your appearance is the same as everyone else you will reflect the same image. If we dress in the beauty of holiness we can stand quietly while our actions talk (very loudly).

For example, a girl guide can only be a silent witness for her cause if she is wearing her uniform for no one would know she was a girl guide if she was dressed like those around her.

To the lover of the world the character of Christ is a stumbling block, a rock of offence. Are we prepared to reflect His character? Jesus bore the cross of selflessness by reflecting the Father’s will. Are we prepared to do that? Are we prepared to reflect His image in His way? Using our own version of His image is a compromise, which bears false witness.

Often, we are not willing to be witnesses for Jesus because we are worried about the opinion of others. Have you ever sat and thought the concept through? Unless they tell you, how do you know what others are thinking? The majority of people don’t tell you. Every person has a different opinion so why would we try to adjust to any. There are far too many to worry about.

Have you ever seen anyone adjust their life-style to your opinion just to keep you happy? I haven’t. What a wasteful exercise trying to adjust your ways to keep others happy. Sit in the shopping mall and see how everyone pleases themselves. I haven’t seen anyone stop and laugh raucously at someone for what they are wearing. It is futile to worry about the opinions of others.

Let’s focus on the opinion of our heavenly Father, for that is what has eternal consequences. He is the only one who can bring peace and satisfaction into your life and it’s His opinion that counts.

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As well as witnessing to the people around us, we witness to angels and unfallen worlds. They are looking on to see whose banner we are holding. The judgment time is not just for us. God is being judged; His ways will be in full view for all to decide if they are holy and right. We are witnesses even when there is no one around us because we witness to angels and to unfallen worlds, for either Christ or Satan.

It is generally acknowledged that the less a person is covered, the lower their morals. The opposite is also true. The more a person is covered the higher the probability of the person possessing greater morals. When people look at a godly woman they should see the highest degree of morality. They may not like it, but nevertheless it is a witness to them. Successful witnessing is not found in having people's approval. Successful witnessing is lifting up the standard of God. Some accept it but most will not. Remember if those around you do not respond positively it does not mean that you have not been successful in your silent witness. In everything we say and do we are sowing seeds either for good or for evil.

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- Our actions speak louder than our words.
 - It is more important to please God than those around us.
 - Our witness is not just confined to this world, but we also witness to angels and the unfallen worlds.

¹ 1 Peter 3:1, 2

² 1 Peter 2:5

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Principles to Follow in Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

Have you have been wondering: “What is it the Lord would like me to wear? How different is it from what I am wearing? Will it be hard to do?”

The principles that God has set forth for His people are for all times, in all ages, and in all circumstances. True principles are changeless.

In studying the counsel given us by God I will touch on only six basic principles:

Modesty
Comfort
Health
Simplicity and Economy
Attractiveness

“Your salvation depends on your acting from principle – serving God from principle, not from feeling, not from impulse.”¹

The first definition for the word principle is: “a moral rule guiding personal conduct.”

“True modesty is in harmony with Bible principles and standards, otherwise it may not be called modest.”²

We can see then that if we want to follow principle it cannot be on our own terms or ideas but God’s. We have already suffered enough the consequence of following our own ways and inclinations. Wherever we look we see the results.

“Fashion is deteriorating the intellect and eating out the spirituality of our people. Obedience to fashion is pervading our Seventh-day Adventist churches and is doing more than any other power to separate our people from God.”³

“The work of the enemy is not abrupt; it is not at the outset, sudden and startling; it is a secret undermining of the strongholds of principle. It begins in apparently small things – the neglect to be true to God and rely upon Him wholly, the disposition to follow the customs and practices of the world.”⁴

Dress is a vital part of true education.

“No education can be complete that does not teach right principles in regard to dress. Without such teaching, the work of education is too often retarded and perverted.”⁵

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“We are always to be as firm as a rock to principle. Bible principles are to be taught and then backed up by holy practice.”⁶

There are a number of principles to consider in reflecting the beauty of holiness. As you read more extensively you will find more for yourself.

1. Modesty

“True modesty is in harmony with Bible principles and standards, otherwise it may not be called modest.”⁷

Everyone has their own interpretation of what constitutes modesty but God has the only safe standard of modesty. We have seen through His word that one major aspect of modesty is in not having any nakedness on display. We learned that in the sanctuary not even the men (priests) were allowed to have the lower part of their leg exposed or even glimpsed at. God’s standard of modesty is very high.

We noted that in the society of heaven the body is clothed from the shoulders to the feet.

“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: but I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”⁸

Sisters, we cannot afford to be the cause of a man’s lustful desire.

“Woe unto the world because of offences! For it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee; it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.”⁹

“Through submission and prayer any [Christian] man can claim the power of a pure mind, but the styles of dress make it a more difficult struggle ... but for the carnal man, who has not the power of the gospel in his life, there is no chance whatever to resist the temptation.”¹⁰

After reading this quote will a woman be guiltless if she causes a man to lust after her by the type of clothing she wears?

“The bared arms, the ‘Peek-a-boo front,’ and décolleté [low cut] waists exposing the charms sacred to womanhood, appeal directly to man’s sexual instinct...It is evident from the importance of man’s higher nature, that the one who attempts to weaken the moral and religious restraints which keep men from moral evil, is guilty of a most atrocious vice, and is one of the worst enemies of mankind.”¹¹

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“Immodest dress includes any type of clothing which tends to expose the nakedness of the body - transparent fabrics, plunging necklines, sweaters and blouses that emphasize the bust line.”¹²

“In modern styles there is certainly undue exposure and accentuation of the female [body form] pants, pantsuits as generally worn, miniskirts, low necklines, snug-fitting skirts, and dresses or sweaters, all falling into this category. God’s people cannot afford to be swept along in the current of these popular trends.”¹³

We often see as we walk through the shopping mall women dressed with form fitting clothes. You can see the exact shape and size of their body. Do they realize they are showing everyone what should be revealed only to their husbands? A true, thinking Christian man would not allow His wife to parade herself in this way. Her body is for his eyes only.

“Nothing seems too ridiculous for many to put on the body. The kinds of clothing that many women are wearing today are outrageous beyond words. The clothes are usually tight and uncomfortable and immodest and inadequate. Women seem to be constantly tugging and stretching and pulling and changing positions—uncertain of what is visible. The person wearing a short skirt often cannot relax.”¹⁴

A woman who has the courage to wear modest, unrevealing clothing is not only a witness to God but she is an aid to man in conquering temptation.

2. Dressing for Comfort

“Every article of dress should fit easily, obstructing neither the circulation of the blood nor a free, full natural respiration. Everything worn should be so loose that when the arms are raised the clothing will be correspondingly lifted.”¹⁵

3. Dressing for Health

“Special attention should be given to the extremities, that they may be as thoroughly clothed as the chest and the region over the heart, where is the greatest amount of heat... If these parts are not so warm as the body, the circulation is not equalized. When the extremities, which are remote from the vital organs, are not properly clad, the blood is driven to the head, causing headache or nosebleed; or there is a sense of fullness about the chest, producing cough or palpitation of the heart, on account of too much blood in that locality; or the stomach has too much blood, causing indigestion.”¹⁶

“When the limbs and arms are chilled, the blood is driven from these parts to the lungs and head. The circulation is impeded, and nature's fine machinery does not move harmoniously.”¹⁷

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“Another great cause of mortality among infants and youth, is the custom of leaving their arms and shoulders naked. This fashion cannot be too severely censured. It has cost the life of thousands. The air, bathing the arms and limbs, and circulating about the armpits, chills these sensitive portions of the body, so near the vitals, and hinders the healthy circulation of the blood, and induces disease, especially of the lungs and brain.”¹⁸

“Wearing long sleeves both summer and winter prevents the ‘alarm reaction’ of the adrenals that causes a vigorous adjustment in the nervous system and the cessation of extreme overheating if even a light sleeve is worn. The reaction is paradoxically, characterized by an intolerance to covering the arms. It is an adaptation response of the nervous system to the stress of chilling. Protect the skin from direct rays of the sun by loose clothing of cotton material that fully covers the arms and the legs. In countries where the weather is very hot, clothing is loose fitting and covers the body well.

“An almost endless train of disease results from unhealthful styles of dress. Organs are compressed, limbs are restricted, skin is marked by tight bands, footwear is improper. Perhaps one of the most injurious defects in dress is the widespread custom of unclothing the limbs. There seems to be a psychological compulsion to keep the extremities bare, even when doing so is uncomfortable. One’s pride is tied up in the matter, and one is considered sissy or inferior if he ‘can’t take’ the chill of exposed legs and arms. The practice of inadequate clothing of the extremities is so widespread that not one in 1,000 clothes the extremities as is needed. (So widespread among humans is the practice of using improper clothing that there are inadequate controls for comparison.) Animal experiments are very clear in showing the profound changes in various organs due to the stress of chilling.”¹⁹

“It is rare to find a woman properly clothed. She will often protest that she cannot cover her arms with sleeves because of extreme discomfort or excessive sweating. She may feel a claustrophobic smothering when wearing sleeves. Her breath may become short and she may feel faint when she wears sleeves. All of this is a part of the

“Fatigue Stage” in the Adaptation Syndrome. It is caused by a prolonged “alarm reaction” to the stress of cold. One can look on the state as a sort of addiction to a harmful situation, relief from which gives pleasant withdrawal symptoms. The very ones who would profit most from instruction about healthful clothing are often the ones who will experience distressing symptoms upon assuming proper dress. Perseverance for a few hours or days will bring pleasant rewards.

“Nylon and many other synthetics... are unsuitable for protective dress or underclothing... Synthetics generally offer very little protection from chilling, yet in warm weather; they cling to moisture and trap body heat.”²⁰

We are learning whatever disrupts or affects the electrical current in our bodies is harmful. Many of us have experienced an electrical current while wearing synthetic clothing. Cotton does not produce static like other materials.

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“Whatever disturbs the circulation of the electrical currents in the nervous system lessens the strength of the vital powers, and the result is a deadening of the sensibilities of the mind.”²¹

In 1869 Sister White wrote of the electrical currents in the brain and nervous system, 60 years later in 1929 science confirmed her findings. In 1864 she wrote on cancer and the causative factors. It took science an incredible ninety-two years before they confirmed her insights.

There is much wisdom in her counsels on how to dress, and those who carefully follow her on these lines have testified to the health benefits they have received and have been truly blessed by following her advice.

The Holy Word of God is full of wisdom far beyond our understanding. It is written by our Creator, the One who knows how our bodies operate and what is best for its healthy, rhythmic performance.

In the book of Deuteronomy we read several very strange verses.

“The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.”²²

“Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, as of woolen and linen together.”²³

“Ye shall keep my statutes. Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind: thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed: neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woolen come upon thee.”²⁴

From these verses we come to the conclusion that the Lord has His reasons for not wanting us to dress in the clothing of the opposite gender; such as trousers for women and skirts for men. It is also for the good of our health to only wear garments of a single fibre. Comparing these verses with the counsel in reference to avoiding man-made fibres, such as synthetics, we are left with the fabrics of cotton, wool and linen.

While many scoff at these verses, those of us who are taking God at His word are indeed experiencing for ourselves great benefits from this unusual counsel. Although the benefits derived from following this admonition are not yet fully known, we are getting glimpses of the unfathomable depth of wisdom of our Creator especially in reference to our physical and mental health.

My mind recalls a verse I mentioned earlier in this book. “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”²⁵

When we acknowledge that we do not understand everything, and stop scoffing and do His will no matter how absurd it may seem, we will begin to experience for ourselves these benefits. We will know that God has perfect ways and that all His ways are for our

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happiness. These 'strange' ways bring a deeper level of peace to the soul. Those of us who have stepped out and followed in faith have experienced the spiritual, physical, and mental blessings from this 'strange' act of obedience. I would encourage you to try God's ways for yourself: perseverance is required but the blessing will far outweigh the effort put into the transition.

God's way of dress provides for the protection and development of every part of the body.²⁶

4. Dressing for Simplicity and Economy

What is God's opinion of jewellery? We have already received a hint of His opinion on this point through a few verses we read earlier. I will refresh our memories.

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, ... not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;"²⁷

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;"²⁸

We discovered as we looked into these and their surrounding verses that the Lord's 'jewellery' is Faith and Works.

Although you agree with these verses you may be entertaining the thought that so long as you have humility, meekness and lowliness (which are the most important), you can still wear jewellery. Is God a little more specific on this subject? The book of Isaiah will tell us.

"For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory. The show of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their souls for they have rewarded evil unto themselves."²⁹

"Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.

In that day the Lord will take away the bravery [finery] of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, [crescent necklaces] The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, [earrings, veils] The bonnets, [headdresses] and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, [perfume bottle] and the earrings, The rings, and nose jewels, The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, [caps and cloaks] and the wimples, and the cringing pins, The glasses, [mirrors] and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils. And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet

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smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.”³⁰

The Lord also counsels us to focus our finances more on His work than on our own apparel.

“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”³¹

“Remember the Needs of the Lord's Vineyard.--We should dress neatly and tastefully; but, my sisters, when you are buying and making your own and your children's clothing, think of the work in the Lord's vineyard that is still waiting to be done. Worldlings spend much on dress. But the Lord has charged His people to come out from the world and be separate. Gay or expensive apparel is not becoming to those who profess to believe that we are living in the last days. ... Practice economy in your outlay of means for dress. Remember that what you wear is constantly exerting an influence upon those with whom you come in contact. Do not lavish upon yourselves means that is greatly needed elsewhere. Do not spend the Lord's money to gratify a taste for expensive clothing.”³²

“Plain unpretending dress will be a recommendation to my youthful sisters. In no better way can you let your light shine to others than in your simplicity of dress and deportment. You may show to all that, in comparison with eternal things, you place a proper estimate upon the things of this life.”³³

“Dear youth, a disposition in you to dress according to the fashion, and to wear lace and gold and artificials for display, will not recommend to others your religion or the truth that you profess. People of discernment will look upon your attempts to beautify the external as proof of weak minds and proud hearts.”³⁴

“Puritan plainness and simplicity should mark the dwellings and apparel of all who believe the solemn truths for this time. All means needlessly expended in dress or in the adorning of our houses is a waste of our Lord's money. It is defrauding the cause of God for the gratification of pride.”³⁵

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“Our ministers and their wives should be an example in plainness of dress; they should dress neatly, comfortably, wearing good material, but avoiding anything like extravagance and trimmings, even if not expensive; for these things tell to our disadvantage. We should educate the youth to simplicity of dress, plainness with neatness. Let the extra trimmings be left out, even though the cost be but a trifle.”³⁶

5. Dressing Attractively

We have established the fact that beauty in the eyes of the world is not the beauty that the Lord wishes for His people. We have seen that God’s beauty is on a much higher level. But there are certain things we must still remember such as neatness, purity, cleanliness, colour, taste and order.

“There should be no carelessness in dress. For Christ’s sake, whose witnesses we are, we should seek to make the best of our appearance ... Very specific were the directions given [in the sanctuary services] in regard to Aaron’s robes, for his dress was symbolic. So the dress of Christ’s followers should be symbolic. In all things we are to be representatives of Him. Our appearance in every respect should be characterized by neatness, modesty, and purity. But the Word of God gives no sanction to the making of changes in apparel merely for the sake of fashion, - that we may appear like the world.”³⁷

“The very class which have been presented before me, who were imitating the fashions of the world, have been very slow, and the last to be affected or reformed. There has been another class who lacked taste and order in dress, who have taken advantage of what I have written, and taken the opposite extreme, and considered that they were free from pride, and have looked upon those who dress orderly and neat as being proud. Oddity and careless dress have been considered by some a special virtue. Such take a course, which destroys their influence over unbelievers. They disgust those who might be benefited. While the visions have reproved pride and imitating the fashions of the world, they have reproved those who were careless of their apparel, and lacked cleanliness of person and dress.”³⁸

“In view of existing prejudices against the reform dress, it becomes our duty in adopting it to avoid all those things which make it unnecessarily objectionable ... Taste

should be manifested as to colours ... Complexion, however, may be taken into the account. Modest colours should be sought for. When figured colours are used, those that are large and fiery, showing vanity and shallow pride in those who choose them, should be avoided ... Do not disgrace it [God’s way of dressing] with a want, on your part, of neatness, cleanliness, taste, order, sobriety, meekness, propriety, modesty, and devotion to your families and to your God. Be a recommendation and an ornament to the reform dress, and let that be a recommendation and an ornament to you.”³⁹

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Having a refined taste in order, neatness, colour co-ordination (according to our complexion), cleanliness and purity, is not pride, but is acceptable to the Lord in making ourselves attractive within the frame-work of dressing in the beauty of holiness.

“The dress should have the grace, the beauty, the appropriateness of natural simplicity. Christ has warned us against the pride of life, but not against its grace and natural beauty.”⁴⁰

“Plain, unpretending dress will be a recommendation to my youthful sisters. In no better way can you let your light shine to others than in your simplicity of dress and deportment. You may show to all that, in comparison with eternal things, you place a proper estimate upon the things of this life.”⁴¹

“Do without the unnecessary trimmings, and lay aside for the advancement of the cause of God the means thus saved. Learn the lesson of self-denial and teach it to your children.”⁴²

The Seduction of Shoes

Shoes are often not considered in reference to dress reform except for high heels, which most people know to be unhealthy for the posture. However, I didn't connect the styles of flat shoes to sensuality until I read an article in the *Sunday Times* newspaper in 2001. The newspaper article showed how the different designs of shoes imply different types of sensual implications and how the wearers of these shoes give away an extension of their personality. It brings to my mind the quote from E. G. White that refers to dress being the index of the mind and heart. That which is hung upon the outside is the sign of what is within.

I felt that my flat sandals were just fine because I have seen Bible pictures of people wearing sandals. But according to Curtin University podiatry lecturer Cameron Kippen, in his research on the History of Footwear that dates back centuries, sandals are considered the sexiest footwear of all. They often have S&M overtones, as do shoes that have straps around the ankle. The shoe with the open toe is equated with the low cut neckline of the dress. Mr Kippen said: “Shoes are an extension of our personalities and although the subtleties of their origins may be lost to modern society their implications are ever present.”⁴³ See newspaper insert on page 133.

Since reading the newspaper article and *The History of Footwear* I have found that it is safe and Christ-like to wear only shoes that fully cover the feet, during both summer and winter.

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- There should be no display or glimpse of nakedness in whatever movement we make.
- We should be completely covered from shoulders to feet.
- Our clothing should not cause the opposite gender to lust.
- Wear nothing that pertains to the opposite gender.
- Clothing should not reveal our shape.
- Limbs should be covered for the sake of health both in winter and summer. Only the weight of the fabric changes according to the season.
- Every article of clothing should fit easily, obstructing neither the blood circulation nor the respiration.
- Practise economy when purchasing clothing, and ignore the temptation to purchase trimmings and accessories.
- Have a refined taste in regard to order, neatness, colour co-ordination, cleanliness and purity with plainness and simplicity in colour and style.
- No change in apparel merely for the sake of fashion.
- Shoes are also included when referring to nakedness and sensuality.

¹ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1 p. 698

² Thy Nakedness p. 48

³ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4 p. 647

⁴ Patriarchs & Prophets p. 718

⁵ Child Guidance p. 419

⁶ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6 p. 418

⁷ Thy Nakedness p. 48

⁸ Matthew 5:27

⁹ Matthew 18:7

¹⁰ Thy Nakedness pp. 64, 65

¹¹ Elder E. J. Fulton in Review & Herald, September 6, 1928 taken from "Principles in Christian Dress", pp. 101, 102

¹² The Hazards of Immodest Dress by Harold S. Martin taken from Thy Nakedness p. 72

¹³ Thy Nakedness p. 137

¹⁴ Thy Nakedness p. 73

¹⁵ Ministry of Healing p. 293

¹⁶ Child Guidance p. 426

¹⁷ Selected Messages, Volume 2 p. 468

¹⁸ *Ibid* p. 467

¹⁹ For more details on the effects of chilling see Thy Nakedness pp. 41-44

²⁰ Dr Agatha Thrash in Thy Nakedness p. 44

²¹ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2 p. 347

²² Deuteronomy 22:5

²³ Deuteronomy 22:11

²⁴ Leviticus 19:19

²⁵ John 7:17

²⁶ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4 p. 635

²⁷ 1 Timothy 2:9

²⁸ 1 Peter 3:3

²⁹ Isaiah 3:8, 9

³⁰ Isaiah 3:16-26

³¹ Matthew 6:25-33

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³² Child Guidance p. 421

³³ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3 p. 376

³⁴ Child Guidance p. 421

³⁵ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3 p. 189

³⁶ Child Guidance p. 422

³⁷ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6 p. 96

³⁸ Spiritual Gifts, Volume 4b p. 66

³⁹ Health Reformer, September 1, 1868

⁴⁰ Ministry of Healing pp. 288, 289

⁴¹ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3 p. 376

⁴² Child Guidance p. 422

⁴³ The History of Footwear is also available on the internet: <http://podiatry.curtin.edu.au/history.html>

To The Faithful Witness

(Revelation 3:14-21)

The nicest words are spoken
With tender love they are screamed
My terminal apathy awoken
I wasn't that bad it seemed

My vision lacked clarity
Unaware my bridge was busted
I, like Paul said, martyrdom without charity
Fleshpots I lusted. Now I'm disgusted

My nakedness - a mere assent to truth
Your raiment - a deep devotion with Christ
Luke warm to you like a wobbly tooth
O Lord, make me zealous and in thee spliced

Was once alive without the law
But it came; my sin revived
Warm was cosy I deplore
But joy! the commandment slew me, I died.

Now Lord break down my pride
My works not hot or cold
My putrefying sores must be mollified
You sell the ointment, gold and raiment I'm told

There is therefore no condemnation
Who walk and are hot in Jesus
In Christ is God's approbation
In them only He pleases

Lord swallow my will guard my way
For I don't want to be spewed
May I agonise, watch and pray
That I, your stalwart be renewed.

Anonymous

Effects of Uni-Sex Dressing and Hairstyles.¹

God designed there should be a plain distinction between male and female dress, and has considered the matter of sufficient importance to give explicit directions in regard to it; for the same dress worn by both sexes would cause confusion, and great increase of crime. St. Paul would utter a rebuke, were he alive, and should behold females professing Godliness with this style of dress. '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; but (which becometh women professing Godliness) with good works.'"²

I have often passed over the words from Paul in 1 Timothy 2:10 "But (which becometh women professing Godliness) with good works." After reading from the passage above it brings to light that Paul is saying "But 'in women's apparel.'" I will try and explain.

Paul is talking to the men, and in referring to women, he tells the men that just as they (the women) are asked to dress modestly, without jewellery and in that "which becometh women" (in the clothing of women), because the women profess Godliness with good works, so also the men are to pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Notice in verse nine after the words 'modest apparel' there is a comma. Following the comma Paul gives finer details, as to jewellery etc. Then verse ten begins with 'But which becometh women...' because Paul is still speaking in reference to apparel. He qualifies the subject even more by saying 'in women's apparel', or which becometh women.

It is not the braided hair, gold or pearls that was to make the women look feminine, but it is in wearing modest women's clothing: that which becometh women or shows them to be women. Let's not forget that the verse closes with the phrase 'and good works', which would include dressing according to God's design.

Dressing as a woman, when you are a woman, ought not to cause confusion in anyone's mind as to your gender. How often we are confused as to the gender of people we see walking along the street. Are they male or female? We cannot tell by their clothes.

As we go along we will discover, in a very startling way, why God prohibits his people from dressing like the opposite sex. We will also discover the terrible affect it has had on the church and while ignoring this seemingly trivial counsel how it actually leads into spiritualism.

Along with the subject of dress there is counsel on the length of hair. Many people see this point as irrelevant for today's society and think that following the counsel given about hair as being extremely pedantic. In my research I have found that there is a very interesting connection between dress and hair.

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Once again I can see God's ways are not our ways. He is the only true and wise One. He writes no needless counsel.

"There is still another style of dress ... [so-called dress reformers] will imitate the opposite sex, as nearly as possible. They will wear the cap, pants, vest, coat, and boots, the last of which is the most sensible part of the costume. Those who adopt and advocate this style of dress, are carrying the so-called dress reform to very objectionable lengths. Confusion will be the result...

"In this style of dress God's order has been reversed, and his special directions disregarded. Deut. xxii, 5. "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God." This style of dress, God would not have his people adopt. It is not modest apparel, and is not at all fitting for modest, humble females who profess to be Christ's followers. God's prohibitions are lightly regarded by all who would advocate the doing away of the distinction of dress between males and females."³

We have just read what qualifies as extremism in women's dress; the wearing of pants, caps, vests and coats that make us look like men. These things are also immodest. It is very important that we understand God's view of the terms 'extreme', 'immodest' and 'beautiful'. We can see that God's definitions are very different from ours.

In another passage, Paul begins by saying: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." We are counseled to particularly follow what he is about to tell us. He continues: "Keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you." Ordinance means "an official rule of order". Paul goes on in the next verse to explain that order. "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."⁴

The next verse tells us that if a man has his head covered he dishonoureth his head. And then in verse five it says that if a woman has her head uncovered it dishonoureth her head. What has this got to do with following Paul's example in God's order? How do we make sense of that?

We must seek the mind of Christ, for we discovered on the issue of beauty that what is beauty in our eyes is not in the sight of God. What does 'covered' and 'uncovered' mean to God and what does God mean when he said 'dishonoureth his head'?

We find a clue in verse fifteen. It reads "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. Who gave us our hair? God created the woman with hair. So we are safe in saying that God gave women long hair for covering. In the sight of God if a woman has long hair she has her head covered, so there is no need to be concerned about man-made hats or veils etc.

In verse four it says that if a man has his head covered it dishonours his head. According to God's definition of being covered He is saying that if a man has long hair it dishonours his head. Is it his own head that he dishonours? We will find this answer as we read in context. Reading the verse before explains who is the head of the man. The head of every man is Christ. The term 'man' in this verse is not generically referred to, for the next part of the sentence says

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“and the head of the woman is the man.” Out of respect to God, a man will have his hair short. He dishonours Christ if his hair is long. When you think about it, how simple it is to show respect for the Lord by wearing short hair if you are male and long hair if you are female. It is another simple test like the one in Eden when God said not to eat the fruit of only one tree in the garden.

Verse 6 says, “if a woman is not covered let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for her to be shorn let her be covered.” Is it shameful for a woman to be bald? It certainly is. If baldness is shameful let her have her head covered (which is long according to verse fifteen). Verse ten tells us that it is out of respect for her husband that she has long hair. Long hair is a sign that she acknowledges that her husband is above her in God’s order, and in acknowledging that, she also is acknowledging that God has an order and that she is prepared to submit to it.⁵

The wording of verse ten is “For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.” If you look in the margin it says; “that this is a covering in sign that she is under the power of her husband.” What about the Angels? Just as the Angels have an order to follow, so do we, and if we follow the order given to us, it helps the Angels in their ministry to us.

Many argue that this verse was only for the Corinthian church in Paul’s day. This assumption cannot be. If we will only read in context we will understand Paul is talking about God’s order of positions⁶. God has been the head of Christ since His voluntary birth on earth (before this they were One⁷); Christ has been the head of man and man of woman since creation. Verse ten says “because of the Angels”: angels have been attending man since the fall in Eden and will be continuing their ministry to man until the second coming. The angels were not given exclusively to the Corinthian church. In verse fourteen Paul says; “Does not even nature itself teach you?” Nature has testified to God’s order since creation. Lastly Paul says that if any man wants to argue on this point, he won’t argue, neither will the Churches of God. Do you and I belong to the Church of God? From Genesis to Revelation, from Eden to the Second Coming, God’s order is the same: He changes not.

The length of our hair is symbolic of the order in which God has designed us to work. We will see further on in this chapter what happens when we endeavour to change the roles in which God has placed us. Note that there is a corresponding change in the outward symbols according to the change in our hearts. This is not a coincidence for the mastermind behind the scenes will be exposed.

You may still be asking; “Why make such a fuss about such a seemingly trivial matter? Isn’t it being a little pedantic?”

We are beginning to see the wisdom of God and why He has given us this counsel. He is giving us protection and help to resist all such trends that dishonour His pure ways and lead to confusion and crime.

“Thinking men of the world seem to have better discernment at times than God’s professed children. Do they not have a just concern over the blurring of sexual roles? Listen to this writer:

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'We are undergoing a change in the relationships of the sexes as profound as any in the world of science or warfare.

We are raising a race of less masculine men and less feminine women and we are in danger, if this trend continues, of developing a population of neutrals with virtually nothing to distinguish themselves but the [external] shape and size of their [particular gender]..."⁸

According to Time magazine, one cause American teenage sociologists cite for the increase in permissiveness is that American society is committed to sexuality. Children are being affected at a very early age through the manufacture of dolls. Many dolls are made with specific gender parts and adult dolls like Barbies are being packaged with provocative outfits.

Adults can easily distinguish between male and female clothing (e.g. jeans, or slacks) because of cut and style etc, but not so with hair. Men are wearing their hair long and it is an ever-increasing trend for women to have short back and sides. A little child cannot be so discerning. At a young age a child is forming his sexual identity. God intended that there be a clear distinct difference between the dress of men and women. It is absolutely imperative that we train up a child to know unmistakably that it is male or female. The child needs a distinct role model to be able to come to that conclusion and to stay sure of it.

As we look around, we see many look-alike boutiques and hair salons, all of which offer the same clothes and hairstyles for both men and women. Are there any spiritual dangers in this growing movement? Have you noticed the incredible rise in homosexuality over the past decade or so?

As the Scriptures says "... so the curse causeless shall not come."⁹

There is much written about the causes of homosexuality but it is interesting to the Bible reader that through the centuries of time the same conditions have produced similar results.

The land of Canaan was the place God wanted the Israelites to inhabit but it was filled with perverse iniquity, such as homosexuality. They had many debase practices, so God gave very explicit instruction for the Hebrews not to intermarry. Furthermore they were given very specific instructions against dressing like the opposite gender¹⁰. This must have already been in practise for we see it going hand in hand with the homosexual practices of today. God was giving very timely instructions to His people not to open any door of temptation on this matter. It makes one wonder if there is any correlation between the surge in homosexuality today and the changing of fashion, where women are now being encouraged to wear look-a-like clothing to men.

This brings to my mind a friend of our family. She has always liked to dress as a male. She wears men's shirts, jeans, jacket and boots and of course she has short hair. As we became used to her wearing such outfits and just put it down to 'her style', I began to notice that when referring to her I would accidentally say "he" instead of "she". I would have to stop and correct myself.

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Our friend is a very good hockey player and one day she was invited to come to the school and play hockey with the children during sports. One ten-year-old boy could not believe that she was a female, he was very insistent that she was male.

The vast majority of people she meets, such as shop assistants and petrol station attendants, speak to her as a male. She is a very generous person and likes looking for people to help. She will always stop to help someone that is stuck on the roadside etc and many say, "thank you, young man". Elderly people that she helps are also confused when they ask her name, then profusely apologise for their 'mistake'.

Can you see the psychological danger in dressing like the opposite sex? It is easy to see how small children growing up in a unisex world will have great confusion as to who is who and who they should be, especially if both parents dress similarly and cut their hair in the same way. No wonder some people think that it is for them to choose what they want to be; especially when you have the medical profession to help you with a few hormones and operations etc.

Very interestingly there are three issues in vogue today, which have never happened simultaneously before in the history of the world.

1. The Women's Liberation Movement, whose blatant mission is to interchange the roles of men and women in all areas of life: social, economical and religious spheres.
2. The sudden change in fashion that is causing more and more women to abandon the traditional feminine style of dress and to choose masculine style haircuts.
3. There is an ever-growing trend for men to wear more feminine style (cut, colour and design) clothing and long hair is now acceptable on men.

We know through the ever-increasing need for psychiatrists and psychologists that more and more people are having great identity crises.

"Dr Feiner is a prominent psychoanalyst and faculty member of New York's William Alanson White Institute of Psychiatry. In his book *Why More Women Are Dressing Up Like Men?* He asks; If clothes make a man, what do men's clothes make the woman? The question has recently become a pressing one with the sudden popularity of man-tailored clothes with women. It is no accident that this fashion comes at the height of the women's lib movement. Clothes have always expressed people's feelings about themselves."¹¹

The Women's Rights Movements came into being in the 19th century and is inseparably and intimately connected to Spiritualism. In fact, Spiritualism is the root of the Women's Rights Movements or Feminism as it is often referred to these days.¹²

Feminism pervades every fibre of life in today's generation. It has moved very perniciously; the majority of the population are not aware of it. Education, from kindergarten to university has

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been thoroughly changed through feminism. All forms of feminism have the same roots and are progressing in the same direction. In the Christian world feminism has transcended all denominational boundaries. Supporting any feminist agenda (which includes their style of dress) is dangerous because these agendas are not 'one off' items, they are all interconnected and have a domino effect on each other, belonging to the same downward spiritualistic pathway.

Feminism is intimately connected to spiritualism. The leaders of the Women's Right's Movements were Spiritualists. One woman Victoria Woodhull who was foremost in the Movement was called "The terrible Siren" and "Mrs. Satan". "At a time when no churches ordained women and many forbade them to speak aloud in church, Spiritualist women had equal authority, equal opportunities, and equal numbers in religious leadership." "Spiritualism validated the female authoritative voice and permitted women an active professional and spiritual role largely denied them elsewhere."¹³

Sister White has given us a very serious warning and has shown us the connection between feminism and spiritualism. At the time she wrote these warnings and counsels, women's fashions were beginning to take the form of men's clothing (pants, vests, caps, etc). Sister White wrote much to God's people to expose the bewitching spirit that was behind this subtle deception. Today we see where the neglect in following her counsel in dress has led the church.

"Those who feel called out to join the movement in favour of woman's rights and the so-called dress reform might as well sever all connection with the third angel's message. The spirit, which attends the one cannot be in harmony with the other. The Scriptures are plain upon the relations and rights of men and women. Spiritualists have, to quite an extent, adopted this singular mode of dress. Seventh-day Adventists, who believe in the restoration of the gifts, are often branded as spiritualists. Let them adopt this costume, and their influence is dead."¹⁴

In reference to the fashion changes going on around her, which included women adopting men's style clothing, Sister White says:

"I was shown that the people of God should not imitate the fashions of the world. Some have done this, and are fast losing the peculiar, holy characters which should distinguish them as God's people ... In these last days, fashions are shameful and immodest. They are noticed in prophecy. They were first brought in by a class over whom Satan has entire control, who, "being past feeling [without any conviction of the Spirit of God] have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." If God's professed people had not greatly departed from Him, there would now be a marked difference between their dress and that of the world."¹⁵

"Modesty and reserve seem to depart from many as they adopt that style of dress. I was shown that God would have us take a course consistent and explainable. Let the sisters adopt the American costume and they would destroy their own influence and that of their husbands. They would become a byword and a derision. Our Saviour says: 'Ye are the light of the world.' 'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.' There is a great work for us to do in the world, and God would not have us

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take a course to lessen or destroy our influence with the world. The foregoing was given me as a reproof to those who are inclined to adopt a style of dress resembling that worn by men; but at the same time I was shown the evils of the common style of woman's dress..."¹⁶

Sister White tells women in no uncertain terms that as we begin to dress like men and the world we will destroy our influence. We will become a byword and a derision (mockery). Notice how she relates our way of dress as "that they may see your good works..."

Didn't Paul say that we should; 'dress in what becometh a woman—with good works'? God is mocked when we adopt the styles of the world that do not conform to His ways.

The world says that it is acceptable for both men and women to change roles. Women can do the work and hold the position of the man and vice versa. In God's church His order of position, men being the head of women, will not change.

The more investigation there is into the subject of dress and hair styles the more we discover that this subject is an extremely relevant topic, and is intrinsically connected to our spiritual well being. According to God's wisdom He is not outrageously fussy or pedantic. No! Those who are following God's way are protected by a loving, caring God.

What lies behind the change in fashion and the role of women in society? What has it got to do with the way we dress and our faithfulness to God?

Early Adventism recognised the connection between the change in dress (the American Costume), the Women's Rights Movement and Spiritualism. Uriah Smith, in an article published September 26, 1871 exposed the career of Mrs. Woodhull, a renowned spiritualist who, through the direct spirit leading, became one of the foremost women's rights activists of her time. Woodhull and her sister Claflin believed that religion and marriage were the two institutions obstructing the way of "true" social equality. "Today her spiritualistic philosophy permeates our culture ... An ever-growing number of persons who do get married divorce. The practical outworking of the Woodhull and Claflin morality has affected our church. Instead of being a sacred covenant, marriage sometimes becomes a temporary alliance. The divorce rate climbs ... Despite all the marriage classes and counseling available today, the Adventist home is in jeopardy."¹⁷

"Feminism has gone far beyond even the most blatant imaginings of Victoria Woodhull and Elizabeth Cady Stanton." Stanton was the first to breakdown the male-female distinctions by donning the bloomer costume while Victoria Woodhull broke down the reserve in speaking openly about sexuality. Today the United Nations is seeking to redefine gender. They are now saying that gender is not determined by biology but is a process constructed by social, political and economic context.¹⁸

The wisdom of God is seen in giving His people clear distinctions in role and dress.

"We are not Spiritualists. We are Christian women, believing all the Scriptures say of man's creation, his fall, his sufferings and woes on account of continued transgression, of his hope of

Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

redemption through Christ, and of his duty to glorify God in his body and spirit which are his, in order to be saved. **We do not wear the style of dress here represented to be odd,--that we may attract notice. We do not differ from the common style of woman's dress for any such object. We choose to agree with others in theory and in practice, if we can do so, and at the same time be in harmony with the law of God, and with the laws of our being. We believe it wrong to differ from others unless it be necessary to differ in order to be right.**"¹⁹

Sister White could see the direct connection between Spiritualism and the American Costume.

It seems obvious that women have changed their clothing because they do not want to be seen as gentle and feminine, but rather with power and control. They want to be equal with men. This is not for God's people. We are counseled not to change God's order of things, for this spirit is not of God. God has given women their place: it is equally as important as the role He has given men, but each is to work in their appointed lines and according to God's ordained way. When women endeavour to usurp authority over men they are adopting the rebellious spirit of Satan.

We see all around us and even in the Christian church, women who are not willing to work in their God ordained line with heart and soul. Instead we see women who want to be the overseers, when it is not their role according to Scripture. With the uprising of feminism in the Church we see that "the prince of the powers of darkness has poisoned even the most beautiful and powerful avenues of reaching people".

During the Women's Rights Movement there was a group of men who spoke out about what they perceived would be the result if this movement were to run its course. They said that women "would compete with men in the male sphere and lose the qualities which made them feminine." They questioned; "Is it desirable to have women become masculine, instead of retaining the characteristic of her own sex?" They also said as women become more masculine, men would become more effeminate and that the family structure would be annihilated. They argued that women had a separate yet equal form of power, but not in the lines of competing for the man's role.²⁰ It is so obvious that exactly this has happened in society today.

"Suppose we were to change the name or being of God from our Heavenly Father, to Mother or Light, as many in the feminist movement urge, would we not create a new idolatry? If we deem man and woman the same, [symbolized by our dressing and hair style] do we not open the door to androgyny [genderless, asexual], great perversion, and wickedness? If we discard the biblical roles that distinguish men and women, do we not insult the Creator who crafted us differently for His glory?"²¹

"Spiritualism and woman's rights drew from the same well: both were responses to the control, subjugation, and repression of women by church and state. Both believed in universal suffrage - the equality of all human beings. For women - sheltered, repressed, powerless - the line between divine inspiration, the courage of one's convictions, and spirit guidance became blurred. Not all woman's rights advocates became Spiritualists, but spiritualism embraces woman's rights."²²

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The Lord's messenger says. "Dress is an index of the mind and heart."²³ And the Lord says: "And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD'S sacrifice [day of Atonement], that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel."²⁴

I don't want to be found wearing the strange apparel that the Lord isn't pleased with, do you? I now see that there is wisdom in the Lord's counsel in regard to women having long hair and not wearing men's attire, can't you? It is important to live within His framework of order of position. I praise Him for His 'strange' way of protecting His children.

God is dishonoured in the feminist movement and all its inseparable associations, such as dress, position [leadership of women and their ordination] and spiritualism. God has a special order of position for his people as we discovered in 1 Corinthians 11. We are ordained to work within His order. Women are of equal value as men but have a different work and different responsibilities that they only can do. Why should we show disrespect for our Lord and cut our hair, wear men's clothing and go after the work that the Lord has marked for men only?

As women, we can stand confidently in the place the Lord has ordained for us. Working with all our might, recognising that our worth is found only in the merits of Jesus' life and sacrifice for us; not in overtaking someone else's role, wearing their clothes or imitating their hair style.

Why Be Concerned With So Much Fine Detail?

God never says anything arbitrarily. He is a very wise God. There is a reason for everything He says. Everything works on a cause to effect principle.

"We are well aware that some of those who espoused the cause of Spiritualism, over the moral worth of whom a shade of uncertainty has been cast, by the extravagances and immoralities among them, have adopted the short dress, and that their zeal in so doing, under the peculiar circumstances, could but disgust the people against anything of the kind.

"How could it be otherwise? The people are shut up to fashion. They do not understand the benefits of our style of dress. And it is all the more objectionable to them as it resembles in some respects that worn by some doubtful Spiritualists. We most certainly bid ladies who have embraced Spiritualism a hearty welcome to all the blessings and benefits of a convenient, healthful, and (being of a proper length, and neatly and properly fitted and made) truly modest dress, and wish they were as consistent and right in other respects."²⁵

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- God desires women to dress very distinctly and from men, not wearing anything that pertains to a man.
 - According to God's order women's hair should be long and men's hair short.
 - Women dressing and cutting their hair like men and taking a man's role has its roots in spiritualism.

¹ This chapter is largely based on chapter 12 of Thy Nakedness by Gwen & Rick Shorter

² Selected Messages, Volume 2 p. 478

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³ *Ibid* pp. 477, 478

⁴ 1 Corinthians 11:1-16

⁵ 1 Corinthians 11:3

⁶ Hebrews 11:3

⁷ see Psalms 2:7

⁸ *The Disappearing Sexes*, by Robert Odenwald taken from *Thy Nakedness* p. 137

⁹ Proverbs 26:2b

¹⁰ Deuteronomy 22:5

¹¹ *Thy Nakedness* p. 146

¹² For more information on the links between Spiritualism and the Women's Rights Movement, see chapter 15 of *Prove All Things*

¹³ *Prove All Things* p. 254

¹⁴ *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 1 p. 421

¹⁵ *Ibid* p. 189

¹⁶ *Ibid* p. 457, 458

¹⁷ *Prove All Things* p. 257

¹⁸ *Ibid* pp. 256, 257

¹⁹ *Review & Herald*, April 14, 1868

²⁰ <http://www.history.rochester.edu/class/suffrate/ANT-oth.html>

²¹ *Prove All Things* p. 252

²² *Ibid* p. 254

²³ *Mind, Character & Personality*, Volume 1 p. 289

²⁴ Zephaniah 1:18

²⁵ *Health reformer*, August 1, 1868

Preparing for the Society of Heaven

Through the process of sanctification God is preparing us for the society of heaven. The dictionary defines a society as an organised body of individuals who follow a given way of life. They have a peculiar culture that they all follow.

We must prepare now to be able to enter and enjoy that new society. This is the purpose of sanctification. Isn't this a wonderful and very gracious thing that the Lord is doing for us? He is more willing and keen for us to be there than we are.

Australia has many immigrants and many more are seeking asylum here. They are unhappy in their own land and are seeking a better country. We are like refugees, or, as the Bible calls us, pilgrims and strangers, who wander the earth looking for and preparing ourselves for a better country.

*"By faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: ... For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God ... But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."*¹

The reason why God is preparing us through the process of sanctification for this new society is because everyone there lives by the law of God. There is a standard of holiness in heaven that cannot be altered or changed to suit newcomers. God also lives by His own laws.

There is a standard of entry and we must meet that standard. How merciful is the Lord in telling us of this standard. Wouldn't we be bitterly disappointed if, when we tried to enter, we were turned away because no one had told us of this condition of entry?

We are told in the Scriptures the conditions of acceptance into this society: *"And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:"*²

But as we see here on earth there are two types of immigrants. The genuine ones that really want a new way of life learn the language and customs, change their diet and clothing, purchasing and wearing what the new society dictates. The others want the free way of life and economical advantages but they like their own ways, food and dress. They want what they think is the best of both worlds. This way they may be reasonably successful here on earth, but that attitude is not acceptable in the heavenly society. It is either all heaven's way or nothing at all. Heaven has only one Master. We cannot serve two masters.

Can you see from what we have already studied that there is only one pure and holy way? *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*³

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We must have the mind of Jesus and His character, which will even include His way of dressing. We need to leave behind our earthly “national costumes” and take up the dress that the society of heaven dictates.

The first and most important work in the preparation for the society of Heaven is to seek to have a change of heart (character, mind). “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”⁴

There is a beautiful lesson we can draw from the lily. Let us consider what Sister White shares with us.

“In America we have the fresh-water lilies. These beautiful lilies come up pure, spotless, perfect, without a single mar. They come up through a mass of debris. I said to my son, “I want you to make an effort to get me the stem of that lily as near the root as possible. I want you to understand something about it.” He drew up a handful of lilies and I looked at them. They were all full of open channels, and the stems were gathering the properties from the pure sands beneath, and these were being developed into the pure and spotless lily. It refused all the debris. It refused every unsightly thing, but there it was developed in its purity. Now this is exactly the way that we are to educate our youth in this world. Let their minds and hearts be instructed who God is, who Jesus Christ is, and the sacrifice that He has made in our behalf. Let them draw the purity, the virtue, the grace, the courtesy, the love, the forbearance; let them draw it from the Source of all power.”⁵

We can, just like the lily, be pure despite all the unsightly and immoral degradation going on around us.

More timely counsel comes to us once again from the pen of inspiration. “As you hope to be finally exalted to join the society of sinless angels and to live in an atmosphere where there is not the least taint of sin, seek purity; for nothing else will abide the searching test of the day of God and be received into a pure and holy heaven.”⁶

“Courtesy is one of the graces of the Spirit. It is an attribute of Heaven. The angels never fly into a passion, never are envious or selfish. No harsh or unkind words escape their lips. If we are to be the companions of angels, we too must be refined and courteous.”⁷

The dress in the society of heaven reflects the beauty of holiness, the pure spotless characters of the people there. It can be tempting to think that we can enter that society with only the dress and that our characters will not be noticed. That is what Nicodemus thought. He was a strict Pharisee, and “prided himself on his good works. He was widely esteemed for his benevolence and his liberality in sustaining the temple service, and he felt secure of the favour of God. He was startled at the thought of a kingdom too pure for him to see in his present state.”⁸ I’m glad that the Lord has shown us through the experience of Nicodemus that we must be born again.

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On the other end of the spectrum there are even those who think that when you are 'born again' you can throw out the requirements of the law. Both the requirements of the law and the character of God are in the heavenly society: the outworking of the law reflects the character of God. We have been noticing throughout these pages that our covering is an index of our heart's condition.

This entry requirement to the heavenly society is a reflection of the mercy of God and His willingness to have us abide with Him forever. "The refining influence of the grace of God changes the natural disposition of man. Heaven would not be desirable to the carnal-minded; their natural, unsanctified hearts would feel no attraction toward that pure and holy place, and if it were possible for them to enter, they would find there nothing congenial. The propensities that control the natural heart must be subdued by the grace of Christ before fallen man is fitted to enter heaven and enjoy the society of the pure, holy angels."⁹

The Lord has been working untiringly for the last 6,000 years to eradicate sin and prepare a people who can enter into heaven. Time is extremely short so let's cooperate quickly and hasten His coming.

The Bible tells us that there is a certain ingredient we must have if we want this inner beauty. "Another parable spake he unto them; the kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."¹⁰

The leaven is representative of the Holy Spirit.

"... Leaven is used to represent the kingdom of heaven. It illustrates the quickening, assimilating power of the grace of God. None are so vile, none have fallen so low, as to be beyond the working of this power. In all who will submit themselves to the Holy Spirit a new principle of life is to be implanted; the lost image of God is to be restored in humanity.

"But man cannot transform himself by the exercise of his will. He possesses no power by which this change can be effected. The leaven--something wholly from without--must be put into the meal before the desired change can be wrought in it. So the grace of God must be received by the sinner before he can be fitted for the kingdom of glory.

"All the culture and education which the world can give will fail of making a degraded child of sin a child of heaven. The renewing energy must come from God. The change can be made only by the Holy Spirit. All who would be saved, high or low, rich or poor, must submit to the working of this power."¹¹

We need to submit ourselves to the working of the Holy Spirit to have a transformation of character. This is the only way we will be able to happily wear the dress that is acceptable in the society of heaven while we are here upon earth. If it is too disagreeable in this preparation time it will be impossible to put on in the heavenly kingdom.

Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

- As we cooperate with the Spirit of God, through the process of sanctification we are being prepared for the society of heaven.
- The standard of holiness in heaven cannot be altered to suit newcomers.
- If God's way of dressing is too disagreeable in this preparation time it will be impossible to wear it in the heavenly kingdom.

¹ Hebrews 11:9, 10, 16

² Isaiah 4:3

³ John 14:6

⁴ Romans 12:2

⁵ Manuscript Releases, Volume 4 p. 269

⁶ My Life Today p. 72

⁷ In Heavenly Places p. 180

⁸ Desire of Ages p. 171

⁹ Acts of the Apostles p. 274

¹⁰ Matthew 13:33

¹¹ Christ's Object Lessons pp. 95, 96

Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

Be Aware

Outward show avails nothing unless it is in harmony with the heart. "... the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."¹

While we seek to reflect the beauty of holiness in what we wear let us more fervently seek for that meek and quiet spirit which is, to the Lord, of great price.

We cannot expect to be able to put on a certain type of garment and simply walk into heaven. Without the character of Christ, no matter what we are wearing, we will be walking naked. In the parable, there was a man who came into the banquet not wearing the robe provided for the guests. He was not allowed admittance.

We must also be aware that if we claim that we have the character of Christ and are not reflecting it in our outward works, including dressing according to His will, we really haven't yielded to Him at all. It indicates that we are hanging on to one of the most powerful gods of this world. Works and faith without each other are dead, totally worthless.

Before you dress for the day, ask for the Holy Spirit to clothe you with His righteousness. Submit to Him, and then people will see the reflection of His character and He will be glorified.

- Man looks on the outward appearance, God looks on the heart.
- Faith without works is dead.
- Submission and obedience to the Holy Spirit is a daily work.

¹ 1 Samuel 16:7

God's Remnant Church

Where are they that keep the commandment of God and the faith of Jesus."¹

God's remnant church is recognised by the likeness of His character, not by apostolic succession. Our style of dress is the index of the heart. God's people will not be reflecting the image of the world, His people will reflect the holy character of Christ, for they will have the holy character of Jesus.

When Michael stands up, the remnant must be holy, for at that time, Jesus will call forth; "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."²

As we near that great and dreadful day will those who should be holy be reflecting that which is not?

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- God's church will be recognized by the likeness of His character.
 - God's people will not reflect the patterns of the world.
 - Are you preparing for that great and dreadful day?

¹ Revelation 14:12

² Revelation 22:11

Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

Dear Reader

The Redeemer of the world has warned us against the pride of life, but not against its grace and natural beauty. He pointed to all the glowing beauty of the flowers of the field and to the lily reposing in its spotless purity upon the bosom of the lake and said: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Here He shows that notwithstanding persons may have great care, and may toil with weariness to make themselves objects of admiration by their outward decorations, all their artificial adornments, which they value so highly, will not bear comparison with the simple flowers of the field for natural loveliness. Even these simple flowers, with God's adornment, would out vie in loveliness the gorgeous apparel of Solomon. "Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Here is an important lesson for every follower of Christ. The Redeemer of the world speaks to [you]. Will you listen to His words of heavenly instruction? He presents before you themes for thought that will ennoble, elevate, refine, and purify, but which will never degrade or dwarf the intellect. His voice is speaking to you: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." If the light of God be in you, it will shine forth to others. It can never be concealed."¹

Sister Ellen G. White.

¹ Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3 p. 375

My Prayer

Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity ... Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”¹

My prayer is that we will look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, and by His grace reflect the beauty of His holy character in thought, word and action. It is my desire that we find joy in reflecting the beauty of holiness through the indwelling of His sweet Spirit, and in the silent witness of walking along the street. Whether we are heard or only seen let us lift Him up for others to be drawn to, and come to share in the wonderful relationship He is offering us all - to be best friends for eternity.

¹ Ecclesiastes 12:8, 13

About Sister Ellen G. White

If you are reading this booklet for the first time and have little knowledge of the lady whom we refer to as Sister White, the following information may help you.

Ellen G. White (1827-1915) was a remarkable woman who had spiritual, medical and nutritional insight ahead of her time. She was greatly blessed and guided by the Lord in her work. She is the most translated female author in the world. In 1986 the National Health Federation of America posthumously awarded her their President's Award for her amazing insights into preventive medicine.

Sister White's counsel was given during the late eighteen hundreds to early in the 1900s. Scientists began to confirm these findings from 1929 to approximately 1970 - up to one hundred years after she first wrote on these topics.

God directed Sister White to write special instruction to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. God raised up this church to give the 3 Angels' Messages in Revelation chapter 14, His last message of warning, to proclaim to the world. Through Sister White, the Lord has given the church much needed counsel to guide and direct them through to His second coming.

Those who follow faithfully the word of God, along with the counsel given through Sister White, have been especially blessed. If we continue to follow these counsels faithfully we will indeed find ourselves among those of whom the Lord says: "Here is the patience of the saints; Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Reflecting the Beauty of Holiness

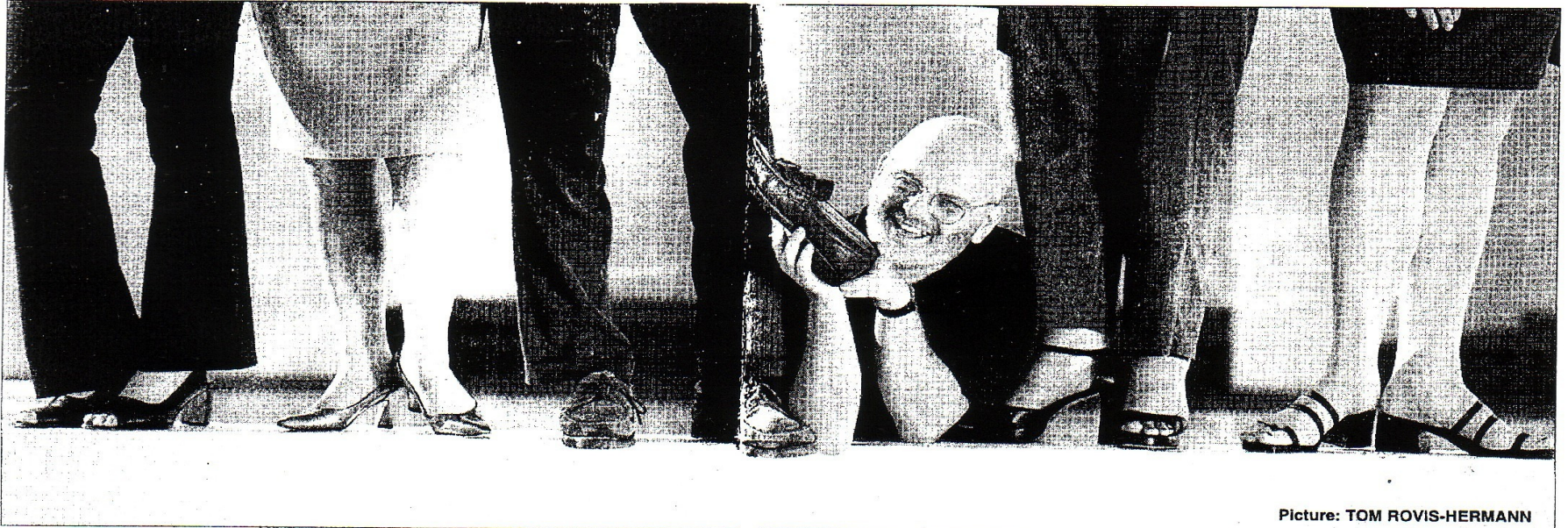
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Shoes

The world acknowledges there is meaning in what we wear
This article appeared in the West Australian *Sunday Times* newspaper 2001 page 91

The giveaway sex secrets of sole mates



Picture: TOM ROVIS-HERMANN

By MAX BROWN

SHOE FANCIERS DISPLAY THEIR PERSONALITY

A PERTH academic has exposed a saucy secret about shoes—a sexual history that dates back centuries.

Curtain University podiatry lecturer Cameron Kippen has some raunchy tales to share about his pet topic.

He's even released a paper, called *History of Footwear: The Sexy Foot*, which examines how sexual trends, needs and urges have shaped shoes over time.

The male and female form were often celebrated in shoes, he said.

But the most phallic shoe starred in the 13th century—featuring curved 50 cm extensions that were painted pink and topped with a red bell.

Mr. Kippen said: "Shoes are an extension of our personalities and although the subtleties of their origins may be lost to modern society their implications are ever present."

To prove his point, Mr Kippen provided an insight into the wearers of the shoes pictured above.

BLACK SLIDES

THESE shoes incorporate toe cleavage, introduced when Hollywood sirens wanted to reveal daring shoes and nail polishes. They fell out of fashion in the poverty-stricken 1930s, but were rediscovered in the tights-and-minis 60s. Today's style is distinctly feminine and suits the quietly confident woman who, despite being conservative, harbours a devilish desire to flaunt her toe cleavage.

GOLDERN COURT

ELEGANT engineering at its finest, with the line highlighting the curvaceousness of the foot. Gold is the colour of privilege and a shoe like this comes with an ensemble. The woman who wears it has a discerning eye, is likely to be in control, is very much aware of what is on show and of the price tag that goes with it. These styles were adored by Jackie O.

SUEDE LOAFERS

THESE are macho shoes with a strong female side. The decoration and rounded shape stresses the softer female side of the wearer, while the sturdiness and strength make them appealing to the outward going male. Loafer comes from the German "landlaufer", meaning wanderer or vagabond, while suede is traditionally connected with cads and bounders—a combination meaning likeable rascals.

HIGH-HEELED SANDALS

SANDALS are considered the sexiest footwear of all. With almost complete exposure of the naked foot nothing is left to the imagination. Ankle straps have S&M overtones. In Roman times, the higher the strapping, the more influential the wearer. Here we have someone with a set of heels and toe cleavage to boot. Definitely a sensual personality.

HEELED THONGS

THONGS are the oldest footwear. In ancient Rome the first toe was the longest; in Greece the second toe prevailed; while third toes were in vogue in Mesopotamia—which accounts for the huge variety of today's thongs. Fashion sandals like these are worn by strong characters who show no fear when it comes to being seen around. The broad based heel indicates the wearer is prepared to stand her ground.