

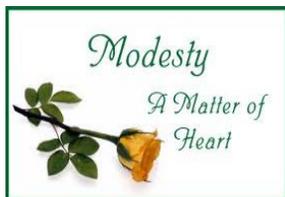
# American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

July 2011

## “Your Philosophy is Showing!”



Movies, magazines, television programs, billboards ... for the most part, they depict a perspective of fashion and style that is entirely different from God’s point of view. Lets compare:

### World’s Philosophy:

1. Beauty is external and physical.
2. The body is all-important; the spirit is secondary or non-existent.
3. Your body is your identity.
4. You are the product of evolution. Your body belongs to you.
5. Dress for people to notice you.
6. The purpose of clothing is to reveal the body and

encourage sexual attraction.

7. If you’ve got it, flaunt it.

8. Highlight and draw attention to the body, skin, and private parts.

9. To be loved, a woman must be beautiful, sensual, and alluring.

10. Use the body to tempt or tease others.

### God’s Idea:

1. Beauty is internal and spiritual.
2. The spirit is eternal, the body is temporal.
3. Your body is a temple - it houses your soul.
4. God formed your body, it belongs to Him (and to your spouse).
5. Dress to please God and to reflect His glory.
6. The purpose of clothing is to cover and conceal the body.
7. Exemplify humility and modesty.

8. Draw attention to the spirit, countenance, and heart.

9. You are perfectly loved by God and designed to be beautiful for His glory.

10. Use your body to protect, edify, and strengthen others.

Can you see how what we wear and how we look communicate what we believe? Christian modesty is really *a way of thinking* about God, about men, and about ourselves. Our thoughts reveal themselves in the way we dress, talk, and act. We display our inner attitudes.

It’s not only *our* way of thinking that’s in question. Believe it or not, what we wear can have a major effect on *other’s* thoughts. Are we responsible for that? Here’s a true story that really made me think.

A friend shared with me, “Five years ago I learned about my husband’s failures with his thought life, which led to an affair with a

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woman at work who dressed very sensually. My heart was broken.”

Let me ask you a question: Who was responsible for this affair? Was my friend’s husband? Absolutely! Did the woman who dressed sensually have any responsibility? Absolutely!

Richard Baxter was a 17th century pastor who recognized, even then, that women’s clothing could snare a man’s mind. He used a word picture that graphically illustrates how our choices as women affect the men around us:

*And though it be their sin and vanity that is the cause, it is nevertheless your sin to be the unnecessary occasion... You must not lay a stumbling-block in their way, nor blow up the fire of their lust ... You must walk among sinful persons, as you would do with a candle among straw or gunpowder, or else you*

*may see the flame which you did not foresee, when it is too late to quench it.”*

Ladies, God calls us to each walk in this world as “a candle among straw or gunpowder.” A fire or explosion can be devastating, and it can injure and destroy many lives.

This isn’t to suggest that men aren’t responsible for their thought life or their behavior. They are. And they have to learn how to walk with God and bring those thoughts under the control of Christ, even though they live in a sex-crazed culture where immodesty is rampant.

However, as Christian women, our clothing choices can either help men succeed morally or can put temptation in their path that they may find difficult to overcome. That means both men and women are responsible for moral purity!

Melody Green, widow of gospel music legend Keith Green, described the mixed message many Christians send through their willful choices:

*Unfortunately, it seems that many Christians are*

*lost in their own selfish little world - either oblivious or uncaring about the effect they have on others. They may even appear to have a real excitement and love for the Lord - however, their body is sending out a totally different message. I know, because... I have done it - partly in ignorance, but mostly in rebellion. I can remember thinking, “Well, it’s not my fault if they can’t keep their eyes off of me and on the Lord. They just aren’t spiritual enough. Why should I have to change just because they are weak?”*

*But the Lord showed me that it was my fault. I was responsible for causing my brother to stumble and it had to change. Once I really saw the damage my selfishness was doing to others and to the Lord, I was really ashamed of myself and embarrassed that I had been representing Jesus in such an unbecoming way.*

What convicting words. We should do everything in our power to help our brothers stand and to be sure that our dress and appearance bring glory to God.

Taken from *The Look: Does God Really Care What I Wear* by Nancy Leigh DeMoss]

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