



BIBLICAL FOOTPRINT 13 — ADORNMENT

The Bible is very clear on this subject. One need look no farther than **1Timothy 2:9, 10** and **1Peter 3:3-4**. Therein Paul said to Timothy, “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.” Peter informs the church that, “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.” Ellen White, in her writings, described fashion as a god that the whole world follows after, especially women. That was true in her day, but now also applies to men. The principles of modesty and humility in attire and adornment apply to both genders.

The contrast is seen by what God told Isaiah about the church of Israel **in chapter 3 of his book, verses 16-26**. There, God said, “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 of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, The rings, and nose jewels, The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils. And it shall come to pass,

that instead of sweet 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. Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war. And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground.”

These same principles apply to the clothing, the jewelry, the hairdo's, the use of makeup, etc. They also apply to the use of any form of tattoos, body piercing, or anything that marks up or impairs God's creation and glorifies self. If God thought we needed help with the decoration or presentation of our bodies, He would have provided the work in His design of our bodies. But rather, He knew that man would pervert His creation, and His worship through paganism. All of these things, and their uses, are derived solely from paganism, not from God, and is why God said don't do them or use them. **Leviticus 19:28**: “Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.” The use of these things is an insult to God and His workmanship and have no place in the life of the believer.

The Creator did not design man to be meanly arrayed, while bestowing such beauty of adornment upon the inferior things of His handiwork. He does not wish man to be ignobly arrayed, even in his fallen and degenerate state. The Saviour said, "If God so clothed the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you?" **Matthew 6:30**. And can there be any better apparel any more beautiful and appropriate garments, than those which He makes for us Himself?

We make a great mistake when we refuse to let God clothe us with the garments which suit His taste. And we make that mistake, as the Word tells us, by taking anxious thought about the matter, as though it were one of the main purposes of existence, and studying to be arrayed according to our human taste and fancy without consulting Him. He who apparels the lilies and clothes all nature in her beautiful dress is a wiser and more skillful Artist than any that ever held sway over the fashions of the world.

If we make outward adornment our care and study, we shall prevent the true adornment which the Creator desires us to have. There is the adornment of "a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." **1Peter 3:4**. There is the "fine linen, clean and white," which is "the righteousness of the saints." **Revelation 19:8**. "The Lord will give grace and glory." **Psalms 84:11**.

“He who clothes the lilies and the sun will give grace and glory to man, even in fuller measure than before the fall. He will share His own beauty and glory with us, if we will ‘seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.’ His righteousness is the most beautiful garment ever beheld.

He has put the prayer in our hearts, 'Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us' (**Psalm 90:17**), and His answer is, 'Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.' **Isaiah 60:1.**" **E. J. Waggoner, Present Truth, UK July 11, 1895**

"With some women professing godliness, there is a careless, coarse freedom of manner which leads to wrong and evil. But those godly women whose minds and hearts are occupied in meditating upon themes which strengthen purity of life, and which elevate the soul to commune with God, will not be easily led astray from the path of rectitude and virtue. Such will be fortified against the sophistry of Satan; they will be prepared to withstand his seductive arts.

"Vainglory, the fashion of the world, the desire of the eye, and the lust of the flesh are connected with the fall of the unfortunate. That which is pleasing to the natural heart and carnal mind is cherished. If the lust of the flesh had been rooted out of their hearts they would not be so weak. If our sisters would feel the necessity of purifying their thoughts, and never suffer in themselves a carelessness of deportment which leads to improper acts, they need not in the least stain their purity. If they viewed the matter as God has presented it to me, they would have such an abhorrence of impure acts that they would not be found among those who fall through the temptations of Satan, no matter whom he might select as the medium ...

"My sisters, avoid even the appearance of evil. In this fast age, reeking with corruption, you are not safe unless you stand guarded. Virtue and modesty are rare. I appeal to you as followers of Christ, making an exalted profession, to cherish the precious, priceless gem of modesty. This will guard virtue. If you have any hope of being finally exalted to join the company of the pure, sinless angels, and to live in an atmosphere where there is not the least taint of sin, cherish modesty and virtue. Nothing but purity, sacred purity, will stand the grand review, abide the day of God, and be received into a pure and holy heaven....

"I feel impelled by the Spirit of the Lord to urge my sisters who profess godliness to cherish modesty of deportment and a becoming reserve, with shamefacedness and sobriety. The liberties taken in this age of corruption should be no criterion for Christ's followers. These fashionable exhibitions of familiarity should not exist among Christians fitting for immortality. If lasciviousness, pollution, adultery, crime, and murder are the order of the day among those who know not the truth, and who refuse to be controlled by the principles of God's word, how important that the class professing to be followers of Christ, closely allied to God and angels, should show them a

better and nobler way. How important that by their chastity and virtue they stand in marked contrast to that class who are controlled by brute passions.

“I have inquired: When will the youthful sisters act with propriety? I know there will be no decided change for the better until parents feel the importance of greater carefulness in educating their children correctly. Teach them to act with reserve and modesty. Educate them for usefulness, to be helps, to minister to others rather than to be waited upon and be ministered unto.

“Satan controls the minds of the youth in general. Your daughters are not taught self-denial and self-control. They are petted, and their pride is fostered. They are allowed to have their own way until they become headstrong and self-willed, and you are put to your wit's end to know what course to pursue to save them from ruin. Satan is leading them on to be a proverb in the mouth of unbelievers because of their boldness, their lack of reserve and womanly modesty. The young boys are likewise left to have their own way. They have scarcely entered their teens before they are by the side of little girls of their own age, accompanying them home and making love to them. And the parents are so completely in bondage through their own indulgence and mistaken love for their children that they dare not pursue a decided course to make a change and restrain their too-fast children in this fast age.” **E. G. White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, pg. 456-460**