

For Our Information

Joyce Venable is dealing with fever and stomach issues.

Vickie McNees is to have hand surgery on Monday in Hot Springs.

Clifton Hurst seems to be doing better following a doctor visit and some medication.

Keep brethren on the east coast in mind as you pray each day. Many are suffering from the storm.

Remember one another as we pray to the Father each day

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

Church of Christ
1512 Tanner Street
Malvern, AR 72104
(501) 332-8806

preacher@tannerst.com

Find us online

tannerst.com
[FB @TannerStCoC](#)

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

Someone may wonder, "but none of this answers the question of what specifically we can or cannot wear, or where that line is between modest and immodest." Neither do those texts in **1Timothy 2** and **1Peter 3**. We are expected to learn something of God's character then act accordingly in humility and wisdom. Or we can be proud and selfish. That's on us.

Agree or disagree, but if we have to debate the exact line in inches on someone's legs or torso, then I have to wonder if we are asking the right questions. Regulate yourself with a heart for God. When you get dressed, think of your motivation. Know that your body belongs to God first (**1Corinthians 6:19-20**), then to your spouse (cf. **1Corinthians 7:3-4**). Ask, "Does this reflect an inner attitude that God finds precious? Is this proper for professing godliness?" Be honest. You'll likely know the answer and what to do next.

Seeking His Righteousness

Tanner St Bulletin Volume 7 Week 36

September 2018

The Real Issue in Modesty Doy Moyer

I see a variety of discussions about modesty. Often they seem to devolve into disputes about issues like women's empowerment, men's lustful habits, and where exactly the lines on the body should be. I have no interest in starting another such dispute, so let's not go there. What I do want to do, however, is make a couple of other points that need more attention.

We might note that the term "modest," with respect to clothing, has more to do with wearing too much than with wearing too little (see **1Timothy 2:9** and **1Peter 3:3**). Too little clothing would be considered



... let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

1Peter 3:4



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

nakedness, and this, of course, depends upon the circumstances (private, public, married, etc.). Do we care about that? And no, I don't think there is a different standard for men than there is for women. But enough on that for now.

There is something else needing stressed. I'll set this one up this way: we usually see discussions of modesty surround the question of whether something is going to make other people lust or think inappropriately (usually men because ... men). Surely if we know that someone has a problem, then any Christian who loves his or her brothers and sisters in Christ will be willing to forego even what they defend as a liberty in order to help another who struggles. That's basic **Romans 14** stuff.

However, the motivation given in the passages regarding modesty does not address doing it for the sake of others. After Peter pointed out that the external clothing is not where it's at, he said that the focus needs to be *"the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious."* (**1Peter 4:4**). When Paul gave the instructions in **1Timothy 2:9-10**, he said the dress needs to be what is proper for those who *"profess godliness."*

These are speaking about the inner person, and the point both Paul and Peter are making is that the outer is going to reflect the inner (cf. **Matthew 15:19**). This means that modesty is self-regulated because it begins in one's heart. Just know that what you wear will reflect what's on the inside, and this matters to God because you are His. *"You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

The primary reason we ought to dress appropriately

Store In My Heart

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

In a final instruction to His ambassadors Jesus reveals His complete authority. Then instructs them to teach everyone all the things He has taught. He concludes with a reminder that He will never leave them.

This message would give courage and strength to the apostles and disciples in the coming age. It can do the same for us as well.

is because God finds a particular attitude precious (of great value), and our dress will reflect this attitude. What others think or don't think is not the issue raised by either Peter or Paul. What God thinks is primary. An attitude that seeks the character of God and doing what is precious in God's sight is what this is all about. The question then is how we want to represent what God considers to be of such great value. Modest dress shows a modest heart.

Put this in perspective. Nothing is hidden from God. Everything is open and laid bare to His eyes (**Hebrews 4:13**). There is no part of ourselves that we can hide from Him; it's not like His eyes need to be shielded from anything. Even so, there are appropriate ways of dressing and acting based on this attitude that God finds precious. The goal in dress is not to impress others. Nor is it even to try to control the way others may think in their own hearts. The goal is to manifest the character of God, to do what He finds precious, and so to glorify Him.

The next time we wonder about whether our clothing is appropriate, instead of wondering, "Will a man lust?" or "Will a woman think something inappropriate?" ask first, "Will God find my attitude precious and my dress reflecting this attitude? Will this glorify Him?" That will put matters in proper perspective.

Once God is taken from the equation, the rest really does not matter. If we want to ignore what God finds precious, then we'll do what we want anyway. A man who is given to lust will lust regardless of what a woman wears (and vice-versa). But when we dress in a way that reflects a heart seeking after God's heart, we've done well no matter what others may think.