

SCRIPTURE READINGS: 1 Timothy 2 and 1 Peter 3:1-7

EXTRA READINGS: Apostle's Creed and Canons II, art 7 & rej. 6 (pg 104)

SINGING: 438:3-4 – 125:1-5 – 2:1-3 – 407:1-4

Opening remarks on commonly held convictions on subject of clothing:

- Clothing is a matter of personal style/opinion
- Clothing is a matter of the outside; is the heart only that matters
- Only 'perverted men' are affected by the way a woman dresses
- To have a 'specific dress-code' is legalistic
- Clothing issues always are directed against girls/women

THE FEMALE ADORNING APPEARANCE

I. The command to adorn oneself

II. The requirements how to do adorn oneself
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I THE COMMAND TO ADORN ONESELF

A. The teachings of 1 Tim 2 and 1 Peter 3 cover all aspect of public life

B. God's command: *that woman adorn themselves* (Luke 21:5; Rev. 21:2)

1. this command to 'adorn' ties in with a woman's deep rooted desires
2. this positive command doesn't forbid but directs the natural desire

II. THE REQUIREMENTS ON HOW TO ADORN ONESELF

A. Our women are to adorn themselves in 'modest apparel'

1. 'modest' in Greek is *adorning clothing* (compare 1 Tim. 3:2 *good behavior*)

B. Our women are to adorn themselves with 'shamefacedness'

1. English 'modesty' reflects meaning of Greek 'shamefacedness'

C. Our women are to adorn themselves with 'sobriety' (moderation)

D. Our women are to avoid *excessive adornment*

1. Vs. 9b isn't an absolute prohibition

a. OT speaks positively about moderate use of jewelry: Gen. 24;
Ex. 3:22; Eccl. 9:8; Ezek 16:10-13

b. NT speaks likewise: Matt 6:16-17; Rev. 21:2

c. vs. 9b is a 'figure of speech' called *relative prohibition*

- Hosea 6:6 *For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice*
- John 6: 27 *Labor not for the meat that perisheth*
- 1 Peter 3:3 ... *let it not be that outward adorning of putting on of apparel*

2. This verse is an application-example of *moderation*

E. Our women are to be adorned with good works (1 Peter 3:4; 1 Tim. 5:10)

SOME PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS ...

A. Recognize our fallen tendency to *become unbalanced – go extreme*

1. We easily take any *natural appetite and good things* too far

B. Clothing is to draw attention to *our character* and not our *body or creed*

1. Therefore 'clothing styles' will adjust along with cultural changes

2. Yet clothing styles in all ages need to stay within God's boundaries
of *modesty and moderation*

a. clothing is to be *concealing* rather than *revealing* nakedness

b. in our clothing choices, we need to consider *how to love our neighbor* more than *how to promote myself*

3. If unsure *ask your husband, father, or other godly women*

C. The clothing we all need makes no provision for the flesh

*But put ye on the LORD Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh
(or yourself or others), to fulfill the lust thereof.*

Rom. 13:14