

Dress Like A Lady

1 Timothy 2:9-10 (KJV) ⁹ 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; ¹⁰ But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

Who Are You Wearing?

In 1995, the late Joan Rivers forever changed the Oscar's red carpet interview with four simple words "*who are you wearing?*" Today, not a television awards show begins without the parade of celebrities being asked that same question; while millions of viewers across the globe eagerly judge each ensemble by asking "*where can I get it?*" or "*what were you thinking?*".

The most intriguing part of her question is not what, but **who** are you wearing. Joan understood the principle of "reputation by association". Having interviewed many famous people since the mid-1960s, she was keenly aware of the throngs of fashion designers competing for A-list celebrities to represent them by donning their wares at an exclusive event. And conversely, celebrities with the most discerning tastes who only considered top-tier designers to dress them

A garment worn by the right celebrity can catapult an obscure designer to critical acclaim in one evening as when Michelle Obama wore a stunning inaugural ball gown designed by little-known Jason Wu nearly eight years ago.

As the adage goes, "image is everything"! It may seem shallow, but let's face it - only God looks at the heart. Man has to work really hard to see past the outward appearance. I'm not saying we should get so caught up in our appearance that we go overboard, but we are to be careful in this area as we don't want to hinder the cause of Christ by our choice of clothing.

Did you know that the Bible has something to say about what we wear? It's true. In fact, fashion advice is given to us in both the Old and New Testaments. For example, Colossians 3:12-14 (KJV) tells us to ¹² Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. ¹⁴ And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. This scripture uses the metaphor "put on" to instruct us to deliberately clothe ourselves with these virtues.

It also implies that we are naked or indecently exposed when we are not wearing them. In our featured text, 1 Timothy 2:9-10, we are told to dress modestly, with decency and propriety. Modesty is not the only thing important where the area of dress is concerned. Some of us have the modesty part under control. We'd never think of wearing something too tight, too low, too short, etc. But in the areas of sloppiness and unkempt appearances we can sometimes be a little lacking. In verse 10, the scripture goes on to say that we should wear good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. So we see that what we wear is one of the first things that will show our faith walk. We must be mindful how we present ourselves because we can see it is all too easy to be judged by the clothes we wear, like the woman in Proverbs 7:10 (KJV) And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

Teens and juniors aren't left out as their style guide can be found in 1 Peter 5:5 (KJV) Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Isaiah 61:3 (NIV) displays God's return policy as He promises us a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

As God's A-listers, we are each given a brand new haute-couture wardrobe masterfully crafted by the designer of the universe. Every piece is perfectly tailored to fit our form, and it never goes out of style. We can all show up in the same outfit and not feel the slightest bit insecure. In fact, that's how we recognize each other, by **who** we're wearing: Romans 13:14 (NIV) tells us Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Now that we've perused our spiritual closet and tried on garments that will last an eternity, let me ask you: Who are you wearing?

Prayer:

Lord, help me not to get too comfortable here on this earth so that I love it more than I love heaven. I want to keep my eyes and heart focused on things that are eternal, things that are of your Kingdom. You did not make me for this temporary world. Open my eyes to the beauty and joys of heaven. Help me to live in such a way that people ask me about the hope of the Gospel.