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MODESTY
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INTRODUCTION

There is a precious, priceless jewel which in the past has been defended by the church and by the civil courts and judges of our land. Even sinners would stand up in the defense of this beautiful gem. It was found in every little village, in the towns and the cities, and in the majority of the homes of the land. People who disrespected it were frowned upon and even fined and sometimes put in jail. God had the attention of our nation, and He blessed America in a wonderful way when this unusual and outstanding jewel was held in high esteem.

However, an enemy-a bandit, a home-wrecker, a demoralizer, a thief and a robber -- the enemy of all homes and nations came in to destroy this priceless jewel. Because the devil has blindfolded so many people, this valuable jewel has practically been lost. Because the devil so low-rated this gem, it began to be lightly esteemed in the eyes of the people, neglected, and finally despised. People began to call evil good and good evil. They put darkness for light, and light for darkness. (See Isaiah 5:20.) As a result, this priceless, precious jewel, modesty, has practically disappeared from our midst, and our churches, our nation, and our world are suffering untold loss.

I trust this little booklet will be used to help remove the blindfold, so that many people will be able to see that for the good of our beloved country, for the sake of all people and especially for the benefit of our youth, modesty needs to be brought back. May it enable you to see what you can do to regain this priceless jewel.

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"WHAT CAREFULNESS"

2 Corinthians 7:11

"IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?"

1 Samuel 17:29

"Beautiful!"

"Outstanding!"

"Perfect!"

These could be exclamations made when some people were shown a painting by a talented artist. However, the artist himself observes the same piece of art with a more critical eye, and he can detect some little flaw which must be corrected before he can feel that the painting comes up to his expectation and his standard of perfection. The same could be said of beautiful music. It could sound perfect to the untrained ear, whereas the master with the keenly trained ear could easily detect the slightest mistake or discord. We do not CRITICIZE the CRITIC for being so CRITICAL of the masterpiece. Instead, we admire his ability and talent and highly esteem him as a master who knows much more about art or music than we do.

MAN IS GOD'S MASTERPIECE. He was created a PERFECT human being in the IMAGE and the LIKENESS OF GOD. This image was marred when man fell into SIN, but, thank: God, through the precious ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST it can be restored in every human being who will REPENT and BELIEVE on the LORD JESUS CHRIST and BE SAVED and then fully SURRENDER to GOD, have the old nature of sin thoroughly PURGED from the heart, and be filled with the HOLY SPIRIT (SANCTIFIED).

"For we are HIS WORKMANSHIP (God's own handiwork), created (recreated) in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them Ephesians 2:10.

"What? know ye not that your BODY is the TEMPLE of the HOLY GHOST which is in you, which ye have of God, and YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN? For YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE: therefore GLORIFY GOD in your BODY, and in your SPIRIT, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.

Because WE BELONG TO GOD by CREATION and REDEMPTION and because He LOVES us so much, He is very "critical" of us. God is a "perfectionist." The word "critic" comes from a Greek word meaning "able to discern or judge." One meaning of "critic" is "one who expresses a reasoned opinion on any matter involving a judgment of its VALUE, TRUTH, or RIGHTEOUSNESS, an appreciation of its beauty or technique, or an interpretation."

Another meaning of "critic" is "one given to harsh judgment" or "inclined to criticize severely and unfavorably." This is wrong to do, and it is NOT the meaning we are considering at this time.

God is "the judge (Greek: kritikos) of all" -- Heb. 12:23. He is a RIGHTEOUS and FAIR judge because He is PERFECT and KNOWS ALL THINGS." God knows what is best for us, and in His Holy Word, the BIBLE, has given specific instructions for our salvation, sanctification, and HOLY LIVING. He enables us to obey these instructions by putting His laws into our hearts and writing them in our minds, (See Hebrews 10:16.) thus making them a very part of our nature when we become "a new creature (creation) in Christ Jesus." (See 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 5:3, 4.)

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AN EXCEEDINGLY HIGH STANDARD

We would expect our God, "The HIGH and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, Whose name is HOLY" (Isaiah 57:15), often called in the Scriptures "The Most HIGH," to have a HIGH STANDARD for His "peculiar people" (His own purchased, special people; God's private property). The Bible says in 1 Peter 1:15, 16, "As He which hath called you is HOLY, so BE YE HOLY in ALL MANNER OF CONVERSATION (CONDUCT OR MANNER OF LIVING); because it is written, BE YE HOLY; FOR I AM HOLY."

Here is a very serious question with a very beautiful and clear answer: Ps. 24:3, 4 -- "WHO shall ASCEND into the hill of the LORD? or WHO shall stand in His HOLY place? He that hath CLEAN HANDS and a PURE HEART; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."

In James 4:8 we see clearly TWO works of grace necessary to prepare US to live a HOLY (clean, pure) life, SEPARATED from the world and PLEASING to God.

1. "CLEANSE your HANDS, ye SINNERS." To be SAVED, the penitent sinner must come to God in humility and faith. ALL sins which he has committed MUST be repented of, forgiven, and forsaken. (See Acts 3:19.)

2. "PURIFY your HEARTS, ye DOUBLEMINDED." To be SANCTIFIED, the person who has received a full and free pardon from God through trusting in the cleansing BLOOD OF JESUS, must realize that he still has the old carnal self-life, the original sin (which causes him to have a "double mind"), and he must come to God in faith and humble submission to consecrate his ALL to God, DIE OUT TO SELF, and receive heart cleansing through the infilling of the Holy Spirit. (See Acts 15:8, 9.)

All of this miraculous cleansing and freedom from sin is made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for us. Praise His worthy name! (See Romans 5:6-11; Ephesians 5:25-27.)

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AN EXCEEDINGLY THOROUGH CLEANSING

How much of our life does this cleansing affect?

"And the very God of peace sanctify you WHOLLY; and I pray God your WHOLE SPIRIT and SOUL and BODY be preserved BLAMELESS unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" --1 Thessalonians 5:23.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your BODIES a living sacrifice, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, which is your reasonable service. And be NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, but be ye TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind..." -- Romans 12:1, 2.

Yes, our BODIES as well as our souls and spirits are to be HOLY. You do not want to put clean food in a dirty dish; neither will the Holy Spirit dwell in an unclean vessel. You do not want to move your valuable belongings and healthy family into a dirty, roach-infested, rat-ridden, filthy house. Neither will the Holy Ghost dwell in an unclean temple. "Know ye not that YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the TEMPLE OF GOD IS HOLY, which temple YE are" -- 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17.

"And what agreement hath the TEMPLE OF GOD with IDOLS? for YE are the TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD: as God hath said, I will DWELL IN THEM, and WALK IN THEM; and I will be THEIR GOD, and they shall be MY PEOPLE. Wherefore come out from among them, and BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord, and TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us CLEANSE OURSELVES FROM ALL FILTHINESS of the FLESH and SPIRIT (EVERYTHING that contaminates and defiles BODY and SPIRIT), perfecting HOLINESS in the fear of God (out of reverence for God)" -- 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1.

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DOES GOD CARE WHAT WE WEAR?

When Adam and Eve were in their original HOLY STATE they were clothed with the glory of God. When they disobeyed God and SIN entered their lives, they knew immediately that they were NAKED. They made for themselves aprons of fig leaves, but that was NOT SUFFICIENT to cover their nakedness. God made for them "COATS of skins, and clothed them. Genesis 3:21. These were NOT the little "bathing suit" type of garment we usually see Adam and Eve pictured as wearing! These were "LONG COATS" or "TUNICS".

The word "CLOTHE" means "to COVER with or as if with cloth or clothing." (Is a scantily clad person clothed?) When the Bible says in 1 Peter 5:5, "Be CLOTHED with humility," does it mean to have a little humility? (I heard a person wearing shorts say she was clothed.) No, it means to be COVERED with humility. Does "Be CLOTHED with righteousness" (Psalm 132:9) mean to have SOME righteousness? No, it means to be full of righteousness. The man who "CLOTHED himself with cursing as with his garment" (Psalm 109:18) was not one who did a little cursing. No,

it was predominate in His life. "I CLOTHE the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their COVERING." -- Isaiah 50:3. "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath CLOTHED me with the garments of salvation, He hath COVERED me with the robe of righteousness . . ." -- Isaiah. 61:10.

Since God clothed (fully covered) the first couple, He has set the example for His people, His masterpiece. GOD DOES CARE WHAT WE WEAR.

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NAKEDNESS AND SHAME

God equates "NAKEDNESS" with "SHAME" in the Bible. Adam and Eve were AFRAID to be in God's presence, because they were ASHAMED of their NAKEDNESS. (See Genesis 3:10.)

"Thy NAKEDNESS shall be uncovered, yea, thy SHAME shall be seen." -- Isaiah 47:3.

"I will shew the nations thy NAKEDNESS, and the kingdoms thy SHAME" -- Nahum 3:5.

..... That thou mayest be CLOTHED, and that the SHAME of thy NAKEDNESS do not appear' ' -- Revelation 3:18.

"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk NAKED, and they see his SHAME" -- Rev. 16:15.

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NAKEDNESS AND A CURSE

God's hatred of NAKEDNESS is shown by the fact that because Ham looked upon the NAKEDNESS of his father, Noah, his posterity was CURSED. (See Gen. 9:20-27.)

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CLOTHING AND GLORY

On the other hand, CLOTHING or COVERING and GLORY go together. "And thou shalt make HOLY GARMENTS for Aaron thy brother for GLORY and for BEAUTY" -- Exodus 28:2.

When God gave "the Revelation of Jesus Christ" to John on the Isle of Patmos, he saw "One like unto the Son of man, CLOTHED with a GARMENT DOWN TO THE FOOT..." -- Rev. 1:13. Jesus the all-glorious One has set for US the beautiful example of being FULLY CLOTHED.

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CLOTHING AND SANITY

A great change took place in the wild man of Gadara who had "an unclean spirit" and "wore NO CLOTHES." After Jesus cast the demons out of him, he was found "sitting at the feet of Jesus, CLOTHED, and in his RIGHT MIND." PRAISE THE LORD! When this man was filled with demons, he was exceedingly fierce and no man could TAME him. It was very dangerous to go near him. HE REFUSED TO WEAR CLOTHES! When he yielded to Jesus and was delivered from the unclean spirit and the many demons, HE PUT ON CLOTHING!

When the heathen get saved, one of the first things they ask for is something with which to cover their naked bodies. Can you see that immodest dress (lack of clothing) is one sign that America and other "civilized countries" are reverting to HEATHENISM? SANE, CIVILIZED PEOPLE WEAR CLOTHING.

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WHY DO PEOPLE DRESS IMMODESTLY?

Years ago in America the unsaved people as well as the saved wore clothing which covered the body. The HARLOTS first began to cut their hair, wear make-up, jewelry, and immodest clothing. I quote from an article by Ben Hecht which was printed in the August, 1954, edition of THE READER'S DIGEST: "I can recall as a newspaper reporter in 1912 covering the police trials of women arrested for smoking cigarettes, . . . for appearing on bathing beaches without stockings, for wearing shorts or slacks, or kissing in public, . . . for putting too much paint on their faces or cutting their hair too short.

"I actually covered the trials of such defendants, including another I hesitate to mention, so preposterous does it seem today. But I was there in the Chicago Avenue police court to report the following newsworthy event. In alighting from a streetcar a young woman had revealed an expanse of leg that had fired the civic wrath of an onlooker, a high school principal. Forthwith he had summoned a policeman, gathered witnesses and filed a complaint. The next day he stood by triumphantly to see the culprit fined \$10 for indecent exposure."

The tendency toward immodest dress (nakedness) started gradually, but has been increasing at an alarming rate. I believe the basic reason for this is that people have FORGOTTEN GOD and FORSAKEN HIS WORD. When God is left out of a life or a nation, life deteriorates; self, pride, and sin take the reins; and tragedy is the result. "The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is NO FEAR OF GOD before his eyes" -- Psalm 36:1.

Multitudes dress purposely to ATTRACT THE OPPOSITE SEX. Women wear short dresses or shorts because they want men to see their legs. As a result of this nudity, sex crimes have skyrocketed and immoral living is rampant everywhere.

Many dress this way because THEY DO NOT WANT TO BE DIFFERENT. Style has become their god, and they will worship it because they wish TO BE POPULAR. They are willing

to accept wicked fashions in order to be accepted by worldly people. They are ASHAMED to dress modestly.

PRIDE also causes women to wear short dresses and other worldly attire because they want to appear younger and "more beautiful" than they really are.

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HOW DOES GOD WANT US TO DRESS?

GOD WANTS US TO DRESS IN A WAY THAT WILL GLORIFY HIM. "Do ALL to the GLORY of GOD" -- 1 Corinthians 10:31. Five essential features of a Christian's clothing are plainness, neatness, modesty, economy, and healthfulness.

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PLAINNESS

Someone has said, "The center of "prIde" is the big "I." Pride is at the heart of the old carnal nature. Therefore old pride has to be crucified before one is willing to humbly take the strait (strict) and narrow way in which there is no room for apparel which is designed to attract attention to self or adornment which is "for show."

A proud young woman adorned with jewelry and finery entered a church. Charles G. Finney was sitting near the front, and as she came down the aisle he said to her, "Young lady, did you come here to worship or to be worshipped?" The startled young woman became very angry at this question, but God used it to reveal to her the wicked pride within her heart. She humbly repented, was saved, and began dressing modestly for the glory of God.

Peter speaking to the wives (1 Peter 3:3, 4) admonished, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting (elaborate interweaving and knotting) the hair, and of wearing of gold jewelry), or of putting on of apparel (changes of clothes); 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 (incorruptible and unfading charm of a gentle and peaceful spirit...)" R. G. Flexon commented on these verses saying, "Don't spend too much time in trying to beautify the body by decking it with ornaments and other things that are corruptible, but let it be that beauty that springs from the heart; even from a 'meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.' How attractive is such beauty, but how scarce!"

Notice that SINNERS try to PUT ON beauty. Jezebel, that exceedingly wicked queen, "painted her face and tired (beautified) her head" -- 2 Kings 9:30. All this outward adorning could not conceal the hateful, deceitful, jealous, murderous nature within. Neither did it keep her from dying in disgrace and being eaten by the dogs.

"Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting (enlarge your eyes with paint), IN VAIN SHALT THOU MAKE THYSELF FAIR (beautify thyself)' ' -- Jeremiah 4:30.

In contrast, GOD'S PEOPLE have a PUT-IN beauty. Esther was "fair and beautiful" naturally. She had the beauty of obedience, humility and faith. Rebekah was "very fair" -- very by, beautiful and attractive (without make-up), chaste and modest. She had the beauty also of being friendly, courteous, and industrious. Sarah was a "fair woman to look upon" and she was beautiful in her submission to her husband.

Charles G. Finney, a holy, Spirit-filled, mighty man of God, said, "It is your duty to dress so plain as to show to the world, that you place no sort of reliance in the things of fashion, and set no value at all on them, but despise and neglect them altogether. But unless you are singular, unless you separate yourselves from the fashions of the world, you show that you do value them. There is no way in which you can bear a proper testimony by your lives against the fashions of the world, but by dressing plain." (Charles G. Finney's "Lectures to Professing Christians," P.136.)

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NEATNESS

God teaches us through His Word and through His creation that He is a God of order and cleanliness. Some people equate old-fashioned modesty with slovenliness. This is opposite from the truth. Holy people want to keep themselves and their surroundings neat and clean.

A missionary once reported that you could tell by the cleanliness and neatness of the yards and huts which families in the village had become Christians.

More than once we have heard of drunkards or hippies who knelt at an altar of prayer, confessed their sins, and were gloriously saved. The next night when they came to church, people did not recognize them because they were clean and neat instead of dirty and slovenly. Men had shaved, had a good hair cut, and had on clean, pressed clothes.

"The religion of Jesus Christ not only changes the heart, but it changes the life and the surroundings also. It is a foe to dirt and slovenliness. It makes people clean up their bodies and their homes also. Some one has written that 'cleanliness is godliness.' While this is not a passage of Scripture, as it is sometimes quoted as being, yet it is certainly Scriptural. Untidiness and disorder do not correctly represent Christianity. There are those who have an idea that it is wrong to appear neat and they wear ill-fitting clothes purposely. This is a sad mistake. There is abundant room for the exercise of good taste in dressing the body without compromising with the world, and Christ's followers should study to appear neat, plain, and sensible in their apparel." (This paragraph is just as appropriate today as it was when it appeared in THE FREE METHODIST, March 7, 1916.)

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MODESTY

..... That women adorn themselves in modest apparel.." -- 1 Timothy 2:9.

Modesty of dress is clearly a BIBLE STANDARD. God requires modesty in both men and women. Disobedience to God and disregard for His requirements is SIN. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for SIN is the transgression of the law" -- 1 John 3:4.

I blush, and my heart aches as I see the unashamed breaking of God's holy command to be modest. Skirts are getting shorter and shorter; shorts are getting shorter, sleeves are getting shorter -- until this is a nearly naked generation. Even men are displaying their nearly nude bodies to the shame and disgust of decent people.

Why is God against immodesty? IT LEADS TO IMMORALITY. "The objective of the idol of style and fashion is to AROUSE THE PASSIONS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX. Shorts and form fitting dresses with low necks, shorts, slacks, and such like have a direct bearing on crime." (From a tract by Korie E. Bender.) Many boys and men are enticed to lust and immorality and will go to a mental institution or an early grave and suffer eternal damnation all because of the improper way women dress (through their undue display of their bodies).

At different times in the past military leaders have put out warnings that women should not appear on bathing beaches in bathing suits near military bases because it would incite lust in the soldiers and there would be a strong possibility of the women being attacked or raped.

A Christian teenager has wisely said that a girl's clothes should "not tempt, allure, or entice into ruinous consequences." J. Edgar Hoover warned, "Teenage girls, don't ask for trouble. Dress sensibly." Wearing immodest clothing is like putting a "FOR SALE" sign on your body. If your body is NOT for sale, PLEASE remove the sign (and wear modest clothing instead), for unless you do, you are guilty of false advertising.

Again I quote from Korie E. Bender: "I am personally acquainted with a girl of fifteen years of age, whom my wife and I met along the road late one evening. She was dressed very scantily with most of her chest, legs, and back exposed. We stopped and witnessed to her of her near-nude apparel. Only a short time later one of the many men that were watching her, attacked her, forced her into his house; the result -- she became pregnant, and is now in a girl's home."

Parents, please dress your girls modestly! When you let them wear shorts, short dresses, and swim suits, you are inviting insult, crime, and disaster!

Yes, you may be ridiculed because you are not "in style." You may be told that you look like "Old Mother Hubbard" because of your "old-fashioned," modest clothing. Just remember that it is much better to look like "Old Mother Hubbard" than like her cupboard pretty bare!

Here are some more words of wisdom from the "Christian teenager": "God never changes, and His Word never changes. So no matter what man has made the styles, God still expects His female followers to dress according to the form which He has set forth in the Bible (Deuteronomy

22:5 -- "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are ABOMINATION unto the Lord thy God." 1 Timothy 2:9 -- "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.") He still expects women and girls to remain sweet and virtuous. Girls, ONE OF YOUR MOST PRECIOUS TREASURES IS YOUR VIRTUE." "Who can find a VIRTUOUS WOMAN? for her price is far above rubies." -- Proverbs 31:10.

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ECONOMY

"Whose adorning let it not be... putting on of (fine apparel splendid robes)" -- 1 Peter 3:3. Jesus warned of the danger of loving the riches of this world and showed the importance of laying up "treasures in heaven" rather than upon earth. (See Matthew 6:19-21; 1 John 2:15, 16.) "Having food and raiment let us therewith be content" -- 1 Timothy 6:8. Spending more than is necessary to obtain expensive and fine clothing and buying more than we need is not patterning after Christ Who "for your sakes became poor" (2 Corinthians 8:9), and is forbidden in God's Word..... That women adorn themselves. . . NOT with. . . gold, or pearls, or costly array (expensive clothing)." -- 1 Timothy 2:9. Jewelry and makeup are a waste of money as well as a display of pride. Let us avoid vanity and extravagance in dress.

Here is a warning to women from a business point of view: "Any woman who thinks the fashion industry has her interest at heart is woefully wrong. The industry is interested in her pocketbook. And it will sell her, often at inflated prices, anything that will make money for the industry. It will sell her shoddy merchandise, and it will sell her tacky styling -- anything to keep the cash register ringing. Not only has the industry not gone out of its way to produce clothes that will help women get ahead, it has crammed down their throats garments that will definitely hold women back." (From THE WOMAN'S DRESS FOR SUCCESS BOOK by John T. Mollay, Warner Books, 1978, pp.17, 18.)

Christian woman, are you accepting styles which will definitely hold you back spiritually just because they are on the market?

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HEALTHFULNESS

"I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and BE IN HEALTH, even as thy soul prospereth" -- 3 John 2. Because God wants us to keep our body, the "temple of God"; clean and healthy, we will be careful what we wear. We are constantly learning of the "health hazards" of immodest and improper clothing.

EXPOSURE OF THE SKIN TO THE SUN IS DANGEROUS. "A suntan is really the skin's reaction to radiation injury rather than a sign of health," says Dr. Lawrence Lamb, a noted physician who writes a daily newspaper column in which he answers questions about health. In the

same article which appeared in THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER, Springfield, Ill., June 14, 1983, he also commented: "Clothing, including hats with large brims, helps too but most people are more interested in taking clothes off than putting them on -- resulting in wrinkled, prematurely old skin."

In another newspaper column, in answer to an inquiry about brown age spots, Dr. Lamb stated: "They are stimulated by the sun, and aging does increase their appearance. The best treatment is prevention, and that means avoiding exposure of the skin to the sun, because sun ages the skin. Gloves and long sleeves will protect the hands and arms. The "beauty" of yesterday avoided the sun by wearing a sunbonnet, long sleeves and gloves. As a result, her fair skin remained young-looking longer than that of her sun-worshipping counterpart of today."

There is a more deadly danger of exposure to the sun -- that of developing SKIN CANCER. An article in the STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER, Springfield, Ill., June 22, 1987, states: "Dermatologists believe the American ideal of being tanned to a lovely, healthy-looking brown is causing the increase in one form of dangerous skin cancer, malignant melanoma. Melanoma can spread to other organs and, in advanced states, is very difficult to treat." Dr. Stephen Stone, a Springfield skin specialist, says that "there is evidence that malignant melanoma is the result of severe sunburn. Dermatologists estimate that up to 30,000 new cases will be reported this year. That's accelerating very rapidly. Ten years ago there was half that."

"In the United States," the article continues, "skin cancer develops in more than 400,000 people annually. There are an estimated 7,500 deaths a year, according to the American Cancer Society. Of those deaths, 5,600 are due to malignant melanoma."

From day one, children should be protected from direct exposure to the sun.

Is there a danger of getting too little exposure to the sun? This concern is expressed in a letter to Dr. Lamb printed in his column January 5, 1976: "DEAR DOCTOR LAMB -- Do you have any information regarding vitamin D from the sun through skin absorption and the possibility of receiving this vitamin from other sources?"

"The reason for this inquiry is that there are certain religious organizations that require full length dresses and sleeves and I wonder if this could not be detrimental to children. .

"Especially I would like to know if sunshine on the face only would provide enough vitamin D for a child's well-being along with proper foods.

"DEAR READER -- The ultra violet rays of the sun act on chemicals in the skin to form vitamin D. Studies have shown that as little as three square inches of skin contain enough of the basic chemical to provide all the vitamin D a normal person needs, if, and that is a big if, the chemicals are fully activated by the sun rays....

"Normally if the face and hands were fully exposed to the rays of the sun there should be plenty of vitamin D formed

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MODEST CLOTHING IS SAFE AND HEALTHFUL!

HIGH-HEELED SHOES ARE VERY DAMAGING TO HEALTH according to Dr. Richard Lotwin of North Carolina. In a column by Bruce Douglas printed in the STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER, Springfield, Ill., August 30, 1979, Dr. Lotwin said, "The strain the shoes place on a woman's lower body can be serious and permanent, especially when it aggravates another health problem. Women diabetics can develop gangrene from wearing high heels. Some patients have had a leg amputated because of problems aggravated by high heels. Amputations are extreme cases. More common problems include calf pain that can be permanent, heel and arch pain and arthritic degeneration of the joints.... The small toe of the shoe can cause damage to the small bones of the foot and create bunions, corns and calluses."

EARRINGS CAN CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS according to a lecture given by Dr. John Heinerman, an outstanding herbalist of national and world renown who has worked and studied in many nations. While he was in China, a Chinese doctor of acupuncture who was in charge of a traditional medical hospital told him of the grave danger of piercing the ears. There are many nerve endings in the lobes of the ears, and having the ears pierced in order to wear earrings could short-circuit the energy and cause weaknesses within the body, poor eye sight, female problems, etc., etc. The doctor said that if women have to wear earrings for vanity, they should wear the clip-on kind and not the kind that go through the ear because the ear lobe is one of the most vital nerve points in the body.

CLIP-ON EARRINGS MAY ALSO BE UNSAFE. "An ear lobe alert" was sent to physicians throughout the country by Abbot Laboratories through their scientific publication. According to news reporter, Delos Smith, doctors are looking for the first signs of split ear lobes. "The suspicion is that women are going to pay this distressing penalty for wearing heavier and heavier earrings... The heavier the ring, the more powerful must be the clip which holds it to the ear. And the more powerful the clip, the more chance of killing the body cells where the pressure is applied. When an appreciable number of cells have been killed, a tiny hole appears in the lobe. If the pressure continues at the same place, the hole enlarges. Finally it is large enough to split the lobe and milady has a feminine version of the cauliflower ear."

COSMETICS CAN POSE HEALTH PROBLEMS. "Skin care and hair products, makeup, nail preparations, and fragrances lead the list of cosmetics most likely to cause an inflamed, itchy rash or other allergic reaction on the skin, according to a nationwide study." (BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS, June, 1985, P.74.)

"A New Jersey cosmetic manufacturer has recalled eye makeup made during the past two years because of possible contamination with bacteria and mold.

"Tests by FDA found harmful bacteria that could cause serious eye injuries -- even blindness -- in samples of blue and brown mascara manufactured by Tori Laboratories Inc. of Perth Amboy, N.J. Samples of Tori's eye liner and eye shadow also were found to contain bacteria and mold." (FDA CONSUMER, May, 1987, P.3).

"The General Accounting Office has concluded that some hair dyes may pose a significant cancer hazard because they contain coloring chemicals that are known or suspected causes of cancer in man or laboratory animals." (THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER, December 15, 1977.)

"Fingernail polish often is hard on nails and nail polish remover is even worse." (Dr. Lawrence Lamb in THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER, Nov. 22, 1983).

"Chemicals should never be used on a very young child's hair. Chemical treatments can damage a child's fine hair. The hair also should be protected from chorine.. ." (By Gloria Ballard, ARKANSAS GAZETTE, February 14, 1988.)

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WEARING TIGHT JEANS HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE INJURIOUS TO THE BODY

Do not defile God's temple
With worldly things that charm.
Do not destroy your body,
But safeguard it from harm.
(See 1 Corinthians 3:16,17.)

God's rules as given in the Bible are safe and sane. He Who made the body lets us know what is good for it and what to avoid. Only by following His instructions can we have His blessing.

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AM I DRESSING TO PLEASE GOD?

One woman said that before she was saved, she practically "wore the floor out in front of her mirror" -- she spent so much time "fixing herself up" with powder, paint, curlers, and jewelry, but when Jesus saved her, she immediately got rid of all the "junk." No person told her these were wrong, but the Holy Spirit whispered to her heart, "You don't need these things any more."

Although it is wrong to spend unnecessary time in front of the mirror for the sake of pride, I do wish more women would spend some extra time in front of the mirror to seriously consider their appearance.

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Am I patterning after the world or after the Bible standards?
2. Does my appearance glorify God?

3. Can my appearance be termed "holy"?
4. Would I want other women or girls to follow my example?
5. Would I want to be dressed this way when Jesus comes again?
6. Does my manner of dress show that I belong to Jesus?

A young Christian lady in very plain, modest clothing which fully covered her body took her seat on a train. When the conductor came through he noticed her "different appearance" and asked why she was dressed that way. She pleasantly asked the conductor, "Why do you wear that uniform?"

"I work for the Rock Island Railroad, and they require me to wear this uniform so that I am identified with the company."

The young lady smiled, "I belong to Jesus, and I wear this modest attire because He wants me to be identified with Him."

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A CAREFUL EXAMINATION

Remember that **YOU ARE GOD'S HANDIWORK. YOU ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE. GOD, THE MASTER ARTIST IS VERY PARTICULAR. HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT LITTLE THINGS.** What should you look for in a careful examination before the mirror and before God?

1. Is your clothing **THICK** enough? Can any underclothing or the outlines of it be seen? Be sure to examine the back as well as the front. A missionary who had been given blouses which she felt were too thin, in order to be modest even in hot weather, wore a jacket over her blouse. Even if it meant being somewhat warmer, she would rather glorify God in her appearance than to be what the world would call "cool and comfortable" and bring a reproach upon the Christ she was representing.

2. Is your clothing **LOOSE** enough? Honestly determine whether it is formfitting in any degree. Let us be too strict with ourselves rather than too careless. Recently a lady asked, "Why do women wear such tight dresses that the rolls of fat show?" Thicker material may be preferable because, as a rule, it does not cling to the body as much as thinner material does.

3. Is the **NECK HIGH** enough? I was embarrassed when at a camp meeting a woman serving food had too low a neck. When she bent forward, it was worse yet!

4. Are the **SLEEVES LONG**? In years gone by long sleeves was the standard for Christians. Even sinners, for the sake of modesty, wore full-length sleeves and long dresses. However, when the sinners began to shorten their sleeves and skirts, sad to say, the "Christians" followed the example of the world. Many churches changed their standard from full-length to

three-quarter length sleeves. It is strange how "three-quarter" can shrink to "two-thirds," and "two-thirds" can shrink to "one-half," and "one-half" can shrink to "one-quarter," and "one quarter" can shrink to "zero." Is not this what has been happening over the years? Rolling the sleeves up leads to the wearing of shorter sleeves. Children quickly follow this example. "Abstain from all appearance of evil." -- 1 Thessalonians 5:22.

In a Bible school which required full-length sleeves, the girls asked the matron if they could please wear their sleeves a little shorter. "It would be easier to keep the rule if it were not so strict," they reasoned. The matron wisely answered, "Where the line is drawn, there the battle will be fought."

One day years ago when I was following the trend of three-quarter length sleeves, as I stretched out my arm to give a left turn signal, my sleeve came up to my elbow. I realized that it was much too short. The Spirit of God sweetly whispered, "Wear your sleeves full-length, and you will not have to wonder whether they are long enough."

5. You will need a full length mirror and someone to help you with this. Examine your SKIRT LENGTH -- not just when you are standing up. Is it full enough and long enough to cover your legs well when you sit down? Is it still a modest length when you lift your arms? (If God would bless you in church, could you lift your hands heavenward and shout and still be modest?) What happens when you bend over or reach? Does your dress still come far enough below your knees in the back that it would not be embarrassing for Jesus (or any man) to stand behind you? A woman working around the altar at a camp meeting had such a short skirt that it was shameful. I tried to stand behind her in case she stooped over again. I was thankful that she sat down instead.

Stand at the top of a flight of stairs. Let another woman stand at the foot of the stairs and see if you need a longer skirt to glorify God AT ALL TIMES and IN ALL PLACES. God was so concerned about modesty that He made this requirement: "Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto Mine altar, that thy NAKEDNESS be not discovered thereon" -- Exodus 20:26.

Here is another test. What happens to your skirt if it is necessary for you to run or if the wind blows? Are you STILL WELL COVERED? I saw a woman standing outside the door of a holiness convention. The wind whipped her wrap-around skirt, exposing a little of her slip. It happened again showing more. It seemed that the breeze would not give up until her skirt was blown apart far enough to expose a whole length of her slip. She probably never knew what others saw. Why not "dress defensively"? Be prepared for emergencies.

Women, are you following the world, or are you following Jesus? Whose idea was it for women to wear shorter and shorter skirts? Whose idea was it for women to wear skirts with slits up the front, back or sides? Was the pattern from God or from Satan?

Consider the following paragraph from an American History book describing "SOCIAL DEMORALIZATION OF THE TWENTIES."

"The desire to rebel against old standards could be seen most vividly in the revolution that occurred in the behavior of women. Going to work in larger numbers, they gained economic

independence and had fewer children and more divorces. They bobbed their hair, wore skirts that got shorter and shorter year by year, and demanded the right to drink and smoke with the men." (OUR AMERICAN REPUBLIC, New Edition, Giun & Company, 1966, pp. 540, 541).

You who wear skirts with the hem-line "just below the knee", do you realize that the PROSTITUTES first introduced this style? When all women still wore long skirts, the custom of fallen women and girls was to sit on the doorsteps of their apartments or on benches outside with their full-length skirts pulled up to "just below the knee" as a sign of invitation to male passers-by. Women, do you think it is modest to follow the style of the harlots? Should the world set the pattern for the church, or should the church set the style for the world?

When women expose their legs, they DO cause men to lust after them. Mr. Paul Harvey, nationally known newscaster, announced on his broadcast April 26, 1975, that the alarming increase of rapes was directly due to women's short skirts. Mr. Harvey said, "Surely women have no idea of the ludicrous appearance they present."

Is there an ideal dress length? Here is a wise suggestion from a godly, holy man of God, now over ninety years of age, who has been an observer for the past seventy-two years, since graduating from high school, and a practicing Christian for the past fifty-seven years: "My personal opinion is: no woman nor adult girl is as modestly dressed as she should be unless the hem-line is nearer her ankles than it is to her knees."

6. Examine your apparel for EXTRA ADORNMENT which is not for usefulness, but for pride. I thank the Lord that the holiness people who taught me the way of God were plain, modest people. However, one day one of the women had a little felt ornament on her coat. I overheard someone ask her about it. She said, "My son made it for me in school, and he would be disappointed if I didn't wear it." It was one of those so-called "little things" that came in so slyly and seemingly so innocently, but what about the end result? Would more and "bigger" worldly things be allowed until she would decide that outward appearance was not so important after all?

I believe this lady missed a wonderful opportunity to teach her son that, for the glory of God, we do not wear ornaments. She could have shown him from God's Word (1 Peter 3:3; 1 Timothy 2:9) that this is wrong, and she could have with love and understanding shown him that we do not follow the fads and fashions of the world even in "little things." It could have been a valuable lesson to help him in his future choices.

Francis Willard, seeking holiness under the ministry of Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Palmer, gives her illuminating testimony as follows: "Kneeling in utter self-abandonment, I consecrated myself to God anew. My chief besetments were, as I thought, a speculative mind, a hasty temper, a too ready tongue, and the purpose of being a celebrated person. But in that hour of sincere self-examination I felt humiliated to find that the simple bits of jewelry I wore: gold buttons, rings and pins, all of them plain and "quiet" in their style, came up to me as the separating cause between my spirit and my Saviour. All this seemed so unworthy of that sacred hour that I thought at first it was a mere temptation. But the sense of it remained so strong that I unconditionally yielded my pretty little jewels, and a great peace came to my heart. I cannot describe the deep welling up of joy which gradually possessed me. I was utterly free from care. I was blithe as a bird that was good for

nothing except to sing. I did not ask myself, 'Is this my duty?' but just intuitively knew what I was called upon to do. The conscious, emotional presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit held me. I ran upon His errands 'just for love.' Life was a halcyon (calm, peaceful) day. All my friends knew and noticed the change, and I would not like to write down the 'lovely' things some of them said to me; but they did no harm, for I was shut in with the Lord."

7. What about your HAIR? Does the Bible have anything to say about the length of men and women's hair? Read 1 Corinthians 11:1-12. Let us notice especially verses 14 and 15. "Doth not even nature teach you, that, if a MAN have LONG HAIR, it is a SHAME unto him? But if a WOMAN have LONG HAIR, it is a GLORY to her: for her hair is given her for a COVERING." God definitely made a difference between the male and the female. Not only does He command them to dress differently -- no slacks, pants suits, or jeans for women (Deuteronomy 22:5) -- but their hair is to be different also -- SHORT HAIR FOR MEN; LONG HAIR FOR WOMEN. Satan wants men to look like women, and women to look like men. Men show disrespect to womanhood and rebellion against God when they block and style their hair and let it grow long (on their ears and on their neck) or comb it down on their foreheads. Men, do you feel that a real gentleman would want to adopt hair styles set by the "Beatles" or other worldly entertainers? I appreciate the reasonable and simple standard set by one Christian school for boys' hair length: If the boy's hair is long enough to touch the ears or the collar, it is too long.

Does the Bible have anything to say about hair styles for women? "Elaborate hair arrangement" is condemned in both 1 Timothy 2:9 and 1 Peter 3:30 "Both among the Grecian and Roman women, the hair was often CRISPED and CURLED in the most variegated and complex manner." -- Adam Clarke. In John Wesley's EXPLANATORY NOTES UPON THE NEW TESTAMENT, 1 Timothy 2:9 says, "Not with curled hair." In the Portuguese, 1 Peter 3:3 uses the word "frisado" or "frizzling" of the hair.

We know that pride and rebellion in the heart are often expressed through worldly hair styles. As you make your self-examination, ask yourself, "Is my hair fixed in a nice, modest style that expresses humility rather than pride?"

8. Are your SHOES practical and modest, or do they speak of pride?

9. Is your HOSE the sheer type, or is it the service weight type that covers well?

10. Does your clothing or appearance REPRESENT THE OPPOSITE SEX? The Bible teaches that women are not to wear that which PERTAINS to a man and that men are not to put on a woman's garment. Satan has clever tricks to get people to follow the demoralizing "uni-sex" trend (men dressing and acting like women, and women dressing and acting like men). Look at the style and material of your clothing. Does it pertain to a man? Beware of denim skirts which have stitching which is like that on men's jeans.

11. Do you wear MAKE-UP -- even a little bit? This might be called "Unnatural adornment" -- the making of one's appearance what he is not. The beauty parlor crowd seems to think that God made a mistake in people's appearance or did not finish the job.... This dissatisfied feeling with one's natural appearance testifies to a depraved nature within." -- Rev. W. S. Kendall.

It is a wicked waste to spend unnecessary time and money trying to make yourself "beautiful" artificially. Someone has said that the only beauty many woman have is what they wash down the sink every night. In these days people have a warped idea of beauty and follow worldly styles which are really ugly and abnormal.

God our Creator will give us TRUE BEAUTY. "For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people: He will BEAUTIFY the meek with SALVATION" -- Psalm 149:4.

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CHILDREN AND MODESTY

Those who have children in the home should include them in this "careful examination." You want the best for your children, and is not God's holy standard of modesty best for them? There is a special beauty and attractiveness about a clean, modestly, neatly dressed child.

Not only is modesty BEAUTIFUL, but it is a PROTECTION. Modest dress will protect the children from "health hazards." Skin doctors are beginning to suspect that serious sunburn on a small child may be increasing that child's risk of melanoma (skin cancer) when he gets older. Instead of letting their bare skin be exposed to the sun, let them be protected with light weight clothing which covers, for it is "cooler in the shade." In cold weather let their bodies be protected by warm clothing which covers.

By dressing your children modestly, you will help shield them from "spiritual hazards." Catherine Booth was very particular to dress her children plainly and neatly. She wrote to her mother: "Accept my warm thanks for the little frock you sent. There is only one difficulty -- it is too smart. We must set an example in this direction. I feel no temptation now to decorate myself, but I cannot say the same about the children; and yet, oh, I must be decided. Besides, I find it would be dangerous for their own sakes. The seed of vanity is too deeply sown in their young hearts for me to dare to cultivate it."

Protect your children from "Mommy hazards" by fully clothing them. Protect them from the gaze and the attacks of lustful men. In the past I have heard the remark, "No one would lust after an innocent baby." In the wicked day in which we live, vile sex perverts are guilty of molesting the very young.

You should not wait for the child to reach a certain age before you start dressing him (or her) modestly any more than you should wait for him to reach a certain age before you start teaching him to obey. The teaching of modesty must begin immediately. Dress the baby modestly. Dress the child modestly. If you have faithfully trained by PRECEPT and EXAMPLE, the youth will have a much stronger incentive to choose modesty of dress -- even after they are "out on their own." "TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO: AND WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT." -- Proverbs 22:6.

It is important what kind of PICTURES you put before a child. Pictures of immodestly dressed people should be avoided. I will admit that it is VERY HARD to find modest pictures to use in teaching the word of God. It is sad that most of the so-called "Christian" books and teaching aids include immodest dress (or undress). Let us request better pictures and refuse to use the immodest ones.

Many of the pictures children have seen displayed on TV, such as murder, nudity, crime, immorality, and wickedness of all types, have had a tremendous effect upon them. This is demoralizing this generation and destroying their sense of modesty and self-respect.

The communists have said that if they could demoralize one generation of American youth, they could take America for communism.

"And these WORDS, which I COMMAND THEE this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY UNTO THY CHILDREN.. " -- Deuteronomy 6:6, 7.

Fathers and husbands, are you taking your responsibility seriously? Do you allow and condone immodesty in your wife and children? Do you put your approval on things which help lead to immodesty such as television; movies, bad literature, or worldly music? Be AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW as was a Russian martyr, Pastor Nikolai Khrapov, who spent 29 years in jail without ever denying his Master. "An obituary published by the underground church says that he was very strict with others, but first of all with himself. Since CHRISTIANS ought "NOT TO BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD" (Romans 12:2): he forbade imitating fashionable dress and hairstyles and prohibited worldly music, even Christian music on worldly melodies. . ." (CHRISTIAN MISSIONS TO THE COMMUNIST WORLD, INC. Newsletter, Dec., 1986.)

"Walk a little plainer, Father,"
Said a little boy so frail,
"I'm following in your footsteps,
And I don't want to fail.

Sometimes your steps are very plain;
Sometimes they are so hard to see,
So walk a little plainer, Father,
For you are leading me.

"I know that once you walked this way
Many years ago,
And what you did along the way
I'd really like to know;

For sometimes when I am tempted,
I don't know what to do,
So walk a little plainer, Father,
For I must follow you."

-- Author Unknown --

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DO "LITTLE THINGS" MATTER?

Many people will contend that the things included in this "self-examination", such as dress length, sleeve length, hair length and style, etc., are just "LITTLE THINGS" and are "NON-ESSENTIALS." Although there are "little things" in the Christian life, there are no non-essentials." There are many "little" car parts, such as spark plugs or the ignition switch, but we would not call them "nonessential." If these "LITTLE THINGS" are missing or are not working properly, it will make a "BIG DIFFERENCE" in the usefulness of the car.

I am deeply grieved about the tremendous letdown of standards through our beloved nation. It started very gradually years ago with so-called "little things." The warning in Hebrews 2:1 is, "We ought to give the more EARNEST HEED to the things which we have heard, LEST AT ANY TIME WE SHOULD LET THEM SLIP (run out as leaking vessels)." This downward trend from modesty to worldliness, from dress to undress, and from morality to immorality began as a tiny trickle and increased to a mighty stream, but now the floodgates are open, and a veritable avalanche of gross iniquity of every kind is pouring forth in the land. I am sure you will agree that something is desperately wrong in our country and in our world today! As in Noah's day it is "CORRUPT BEFORE GOD, AND FILLED WITH VIOLENCE" (Gen. 6:11). It is flooded with pornography, nudity, rape, adultery, divorce and remarriage: broken homes, shacking up, homosexuality, drunkenness, crime, terrorism, hatred, child abuse, murder, sorcery and devil worship, etc. "Behold, how GREAT a matter a LITTLE fire kindleth! (See how GREAT a forest a TINY spark can set ablaze:)" -- James 3:5. I believe this verse could be applied to this fire of immorality as well as to the fire of the tongue.

Dr. J. G. Morrison faithfully sounded an alarm about half a century ago in his book, SATAN'S SUBTLE ATTACK ON WOMAN. Dr. Morrison served as a general superintendent of a church which was one time spiritual, upholding beautiful holiness standards, but which now has rejected modesty and is endorsing that which it condemned years ago. I quote,

"What do we see, then, around us today? A restless womanhood! They will not be females; they will APE THE MALES! THEY WILL DE-SEX THEMSELVES! They will cut their hair man-fashion! They will smoke, drink, swear, swagger, run the streets at night, play bandit, carouse... They will paint their cheeks ... Use lipstick... display bare arms, limbs showing above the knees. Earrings, finger rings, neck chains, pearls, and diamonds will bedeck their bodies.

"What does all this mean? That the race is again losing the feminine contribution! What a woeful impoverishment! This generation is bad enough, but what will the next one be, when this sinful devilish crowd of women REAR A BROOD THAT WILL GO THEM TENFOLD WORSE AT THEIR OWN GAME! Where is the charm of womanhood today? Where is their grace? Where can we find in the generation of women in Europe and America today that real, genuine affection that characterized the woman of the recent yesterdays? Where have the good old-fashioned mothers gone? These cigarette-sucking, booze-drinking, half-naked, maudlin, cursing, bobbed-haired outfits

are not our American women, are they? These must be the half-baked imitators of the French prostitutes who STARTED THE STYLES THEY ARE IMITATING....

"But, with what amazement, with what indignant horror, have we seen the same satanic subtlety at work on the WOMEN OF THE HOLINESS MOVEMENT! The holiness movement -- THAT LAST APPEAL of a flouted, and affronted, but long-suffering God to the people of the earth BEFORE the TRIBULATION NIGHT SHALL SET IN WITH all its UNNAMABLE HORRORS! That movement which stands stalwart for a genuine New Birth that takes all committed sin out of the heart, and establishes the life in outward righteousness. That movement which strenuously advocates a second work of heart-cleansing that burns away the depravity tainting the blood of the human race; that fills the heart with perfect love! That movement which eschews worldliness, jewelry, sensational clothes, and ornamental decoration, as it would an embrace of the slimy devil as he arises dripping from the nastiness of hell! ... LOOK at the camp meetings of the holiness movement! Look at the women MEMBERS OF THE HOLINESS CHURCHES! Here we see the SAME short skirts that the worldly women wear; the same bobbed hair; the same paint on the cheeks -- albeit a trifle less brazenly daubed on; the same scarlet lips; the same gold; the same pearls; the same costly array -- slowly, but SURELY invading the ranks of the women who PROFESS HOLINESS!" (Quotations from pp. 6,7,9,10 of the Abridged Edition.)

"Vice is a monster of so frightful mien, As to be hated needs but to be seen; Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face, We first endure, then pity, then embrace." -- Pope in ESSAYS ON MAN.

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" -- Galatians 6:7. When a "little" sin and worldliness is sown, the reaping brings a tremendously "big" crop!

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DOES THE "OUTWARD APPEARANCE" MATTER?

We often hear this objection to teaching and preaching about the importance of holy, modest "dress": "It does not matter about the 'outward appearance,' just so the heart is right. It is only the inward life that counts."

"It is a sickly, nauseous saying of the apostasy, (and a denial of God's truth), to say 'It doesn't make any difference what you wear -- how you dress -- just so your heart is right.' It would be just as scriptural to say, 'It doesn't make any difference how much you blaspheme, lie, steal, swear, and get drunk, just so your heart is right.' As pride, lying, stealing and getting drunk are dominant passions of the soul, we might as consistently indulge in the outward act of one as the other; and a religion that has not purity in its OUTWARD LIFE can not, by parity of reason, have purity in the INNER LIFE." -- J. S. Robinson.

Charles G. Finney stated it this way: "Your heart right! Then your heart may be right when your conduct is wrong. Just as well might the profane swearer say, 'No matter what words I speak, if my heart is right.' No, your heart is not right, unless your conduct is right. What is outward

conduct but the acting out of the heart? If your heart was right, you would not wish to follow the fashions of the world."

IF WE ARE REALLY RIGHT WITH GOD, IT WILL SHOW ON THE OUTSIDE. CONFORMITY TO THE WORLD IN DRESS INDICATES CONFORMITY TO THE WORLD IN THE HEART."

First Samuel 16:7 is often quoted to EXCUSE a worldly outward appearance: "MAN looketh on the OUTWARD APPEARANCE, but the LORD looketh on the HEART." The fact that MAN CANNOT SEE THE HEART, but can ONLY LOOK ON THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE is all the more reason that we should be VERY CAREFUL TO PRESENT A HOLY OUTWARD APPEARANCE.

When we realize what a LOUD TESTIMONY our manner of dress is constantly giving out to ALL WHO SEE US, we should desire to be EXTREMELY CAREFUL what we put on. Even though I have no opportunity to meet or converse with a person, if I but SEE him (or her), that person tells me much by the way he is dressed and conducts himself. It is true that a real Christian will pay his debts, have pure thoughts, treat others right, etc., but, by just looking at him (or her), I cannot tell whether or not he does those things. When I see a person, what impresses me? IT IS HIS APPEARANCE!!! No wonder it is So important to dress according to God's Bible standards!

Would you not agree with me that it is much more pleasant to see modesty and decency on display than to see nakedness? Do you not feel that respectable men and women want to set a good example before loved ones, friends, the church, and the world? In no way can a woman classify herself modestly dressed when she wears shorts, halters, bathing suits, or short skirts exposing bare arms and bare legs and more. A person who does this is testifying in actions rather than words, "I am of the world, and I love the world."

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DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

God's people have always been a SEPARATED PEOPLE. God told Israel, "And ye shall be holy unto Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have SEVERED you from other people, that ye should be MINE" -- Leviticus 20:26.

God told the priests in the Old Testament to "teach My people the DIFFERENCE between the HOLY and PROFANE, and cause them to DISCERN BETWEEN the UNCLEAN and the CLEAN." -- Ezekiel 44:23.

Jesus said of His disciples. "I have given them Thy Word; and the world hath HATED them, because they are NOT OF THE WORLD, even as I am not of the world" -- John 17:14.

In Titus 2:12 we find that God's people are different because they DENY (SAY "NO" TO) "ungodliness and worldly lusts (desires)." Instead, they "should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world." (Read Titus 2:10-14.)

Christians are not different for the sake of being different, but for the sake of being RIGHT!

Think of the BEAUTIFUL, HIGH STANDARD Christ has for HIS CHURCH -- HIS BRIDE! "Christ... loved the CHURCH, and gave Himself for it; that He might SANCTIFY and CLEANSE it with the washing of water by the WORD, that He might present it to Himself a GLORIOUS CHURCH, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be HOLY and WITHOUT BLEMISH." -- Eph. 5:25-27. Does that sound like the church should follow the fads, fashions, and customs of the world? Does that sound like we should follow their example of lightness and carelessness in speech and conduct? Does that sound like we should follow their trend toward nudity and immorality? Let us not let our standards down below those of TRUE HOLINESS no matter how "different" we are or how "odd" the world may consider us to be!

There is safety in being different. Because God's people, Israel, were separate from the Egyptians, they were spared much suffering such as the Egyptians went through in the plagues.... "That ye may know how that the Lord doth put a DIFFERENCE between the Egyptians and Israel" -- Exodus 11:7

I read of a dear, deeply spiritual Quaker lady whom God told to go to a wicked den of sin to rescue a poor girl who was being mistreated. Friends warned her against going to such a dangerous place late in the night. Since she KNEW GOD WAS LEADING, she did not fear. She explained that her plain, modest dress had been a protection to her many times. God honored her effort and miraculously helped her rescue the young girl!

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ARE YOU DRIFTING?

Another rendering of Hebrews 2:1 is "We must PAY MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION to WHAT WE HAVE HEARD, lest we DRIFT AWAY FROM IT."

Picture yourself in a boat on a broad river. You do not realize that you are drifting downstream because most of the other boats are drifting too. In fact, some of them are in the current and are being drawn downstream so fast that it actually gives you the feeling that you are making progress upstream.

It is not safe to try to determine your position by comparing it with the positions of others. We are warned in 2 Corinthians 10:12: "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they MEASURING THEMSELVES BY THEMSELVES, and COMPARING THEMSELVES AMONG THEMSELVES ARE NOT WISE."

In order to determine your true position, you must have a STATIONARY, FIXED LANDMARK on the shore by which to judge. The HOLY BIBLE is our spiritual "stationary, fixed landmark" by which we can determine whether we have "DRIFTED" or not.

People say, "But times have changed. We are living in a different day, and we must adapt to the day in which we live."

God said, "I am the LORD, I CHANGE NOT" -- Mal. 3:6.

"JESUS CHRIST the SAME yesterday, and today, and forever" -- Heb. 13:8.

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but MY WORDS shall NOT PASS AWAY" -- Matt. 24:35.

God has not changed. God's Word has not changed. The Spirit of God never leads contrary to the Word of God.

It is the people who have changed by becoming more worldly, more ungodly, more rebellious, and more sinful.

Even the more spiritual so-called "holiness people" have been tremendously affected by the sin of immodesty as they have been caught in the DRIFT.

We know that the world is getting lower in sin and farther from God every day. We know that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse" -- 2 Timothy 3:13. If the world gets more worldly (and that includes the worldly church), and if we maintain the HIGH AND HOLY STANDARD OF GOD'S WORD, doesn't it stand to reason that we will be MORE DIFFERENT from the world than holy people of the past were? We dare not judge ourselves by the world or the worldly church and congratulate ourselves that we have not drifted as far as they. If we have gone down some, but not as far as others, we cannot console ourselves in that fact. If we have gone down at all, we are not living up to God's holy standard and will not be ready for Jesus' second coming.

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MODESTY AND THE RAPTURE

"Surely I come quickly" -- Revelation 22:20. "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not THE SON OF MAN COMETH" -- Matthew 24:44. "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him IN PEACE, WITHOUT SPOT, and BLAMELESS." -- 2 Peter 3:14. "For the LORD Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" -- 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." -- Revelation 19:9.

Brother Robb French said, "Not a bit of IMMODESTY will go up in the rapture." We know that heaven is a holy place and that NO SIN will enter there. (See Revelation 21:27.)

Would you sell your soul for a little worldly pleasure and run the risk of being lost in hell forever because you would not give up the sin of immodesty?

God required that animals brought for sacrifice in Old Testament times be "WITHOUT BLEMISH" -- perfect. Would He require less of us today? No, for "He hath CHOSEN US in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be HOLY and WITHOUT BLAME before Him in love" -- Ephesians 1:4.

Praise the Lord for HIS HOLY STANDARD OF MODESTY IN DRESS! He is an "Artist." He is "critical" of us as an artist would be of a picture he is painting. He can find flaws that you and I would miss with our inexperienced eye. God is working for and looking for PERFECTION. That is why He is so particular. He is satisfied ONLY with the BEST. Why should we be satisfied with less?

Let us allow Him to search us through and through -- inside and outside, motives and practice. "Search me, O God, and KNOW my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and SEE IF THERE BE ANY WICKED WAY IN ME, and LEAD ME IN THE WAY EVERLASTING" -- Psalm 139:23, 24. "Who can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou me from secret (hidden and unconscious) faults." -- Psalm 19:12.

PRAISE GOD for His MERCY in graciously FORGIVING US when we REPENT and FORSAKE ALL SIN! Thank the Lord for His POWER to CLEANSE us from that old carnal nature which would try to get us to compromise with the world. As I read the multitude of warnings, instructions, and promises in God's holy Word, I am reminded of the fact that we will be completely WITHOUT EXCUSE at the judgment. God has faithfully showed us what He requires of us and has made COMPLETE PROVISION for us to have everything we need to be VICTORIOUS OVER ALL SIN AND WORLDLINESS!

"And now, little children, ABIDE (live, remain permanently) IN HIM; that when HE SHALL APPEAR, we may HAVE CONFIDENCE, and NOT BE ASHAMED before Him AT HIS COMING" -- 1 John 2:18. As we have pointed out earlier, nakedness and shame go together; clothing and glory go together. In order to be UNASHAMED at the COMING OF CHRIST, it is essential that we be MODEST CHRISTIANS!

"WHAT CAREFULNESS" should regulate our conduct and our apparel!

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"IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?"

"CHOOSE you this day whom ye will serve; but as for me and my house, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD -- Joshua 24:15.

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NOTE

The Greek word, *gumnos*, "naked, not covered," has several shades of meaning.

1. "UNCLAD, WITHOUT CLOTHING" -- "... lest he walk naked (without clothing), and they see his shame" -- Revelation 16:15. (See also Revelation 3:17; 17:16.)

2. "ILL-CLAD" -- "Naked (ill-clad), and ye clothed Me." -- Matthew 25:36, 38, 42.

"If a brother or sister be naked (poorly clad)..." -- James 2:15.

"They fled out of that house naked (with torn garments) . . ." -- Acts 19:16.

3. "CLAD IN THE UNDERGARMENT ONLY (THE OUTER GARMENT OR CLOAK BEING LAID ASIDE)" -- "For he was naked (had laid aside his outer garment).. " -- John 21:7.

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THE END