

# UNTO THE END

July/August 2006  
Volume 1, Issue 3

"BUT HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END, THE SAME SHALL BE  
SAVED" (MTH. 24:13)

## Dress: What God Really Sees

By Bro. Jim

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear." (1Pe. 1:15-17).

The above passage from God to His people, the Church contains a very simple message; God is commanding us to be holy in "all manner of conversation". In the King James Bible "conversation" means "conduct" or "behaviors". In other words, Christians should be holy or set apart/separate from the rest of the world in every action and behavior. The Apostle Paul echoes the sentiments of Peter when he writes, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Ro. 12:2). God's people are to be peculiar (2Pet. 2:9). We are commanded to make sure that we love not the world or anything in the world (1Jn2:15-17). We are to come out and be separate (2Cor.6:17). Stated another way, Christians should act, talk, dress, think, and even eat differently than the world. The world lieth in darkness. Why would a Child of the Light then copy the actions of those that walk in darkness? We are not supposed to. This is what being holy is

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all about and this is what God expects and demands of us according the very first scripture listed above. Being that as it may, I am always amazed at how many professing Christians are either ignorant or just plain defiant when it comes to the issue of appearance and dress. Just as with all other areas, God has expectations for us in this particular area and indeed these expectations are for us to be different and separate from the unbelievers. In this issue of Unto the End we will study this topic carefully and fully, it is my hope that upon the conclusion of reading this material that all born again believers will come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ concerning this matter and conform not to the world, but to the expectations of God. With that, let us look at our first order of business: the scripture that says God doesn't look at the outside but at the heart. This is always the very first scripture somebody will bring up when told that their dress/appearance is not in line with the Word of God.

"And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the Lord's anointed is before him. But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man

looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.” 1Sam. 16:6-7.

There it is. How can somebody be preaching that God cares about dress/appearance when this verse obviously says that God does not look at the outward appearance? I mean, how blind Bro. Jim must be to not see this!?! Well, nice try. Now, let's look at this passage in context. Before we even discuss this scripture, let's go back a few chapters to 1 Samuel 10:23:

“And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.” 1Sam. 10:23.

This passage is about King Saul. Samuel had come to Mizpeh (1Sam. 10:17) and gathered all the people so they could witness the official announcement that Saul was to be their king. Saul had hid himself at the point we get to the above verse. The Bible takes time to tell us that Saul, stature wise, was taller than any other man from the shoulders and upward. So, stated another way, Saul was large in stature. In addition, Samuel was the one called of God to anoint and declare that Saul was God's man to be Israel's king. Now, let's fast forward to chapter 16. By now, God had enough of Saul and had told Samuel to go to Bethlehem because the next king, a man after God's own heart was there. God did not tell Samuel his name, but only that he was among the sons of a man named Jesse (1Sam. 16:3). In obedience, Samuel went to Bethlehem and in the process ended up at Jesse's house looking over all but one of his sons. As Samuel looked at each one, he came to Eliab. When Samuel saw him he said within himself, “Hey, this must be the one”. Why? Because apparently Eliab was big in stature (God tells Samuel in verse seven not to look on Eliab's countenance or height). So putting some simple logic into this, Samuel anointed the first king (Saul) and figured that since he was large in stature that the next king (Eliab) would be the same way. But God told Samuel, “Don't think that because he is of a good countenance and large stature that he is king.” God then told Samuel that despite Eliab's *physical prowess*, He had rejected him as king because his heart was not pure. God then goes on to say that he does not look at the outward appearance (height, countenance) but at the heart. Does this passage have anything to do with the dress of Eliab? Does the Bible even take time to mention dress? NO! It's about the physical prowess of a man vs. that man's heart. Let me state this another way: God does not care if a person is tall, short, has black hair, blond hair, white skin, black skin, or yellow skin; blue eyes or brown eyes. God does not look at the outward (physical appearance we are born with and cannot help) but looks at the heart. From here, Samuel asks if these are all of Jesse's sons and Jesse says no, there is one more out with the sheep. We know the rest of the story as David is described as a man after God's own heart. So in brief conclusion, this passage says nothing, or even implies nothing about dress. It's about our physical, outward appearance (height, color of skin, countenance, etc.) and we also learn from it that whether we are 5'7 with white skin or 6'2 with black skin; whether we have freckles or not; whether we have blue eyes or green, it does not prevent or help us serve God. What matters in this case is the state of the heart. Amen. Now that we have correctly divided the Word of Truth, the next question is “What does the Bible have to say about dress?” Let us now look further into this important subject.

“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.” Deut. 22:5

Many of you just hate this passage don’t you? This is a clear command from God that men are not to wear a woman’s garment and women are not to wear a man’s garment. Some examples would be, that men should not wear dresses or skirts (the Celts where pagans, so just because they wore them means zero), and women should not wear pants. That’s correct; pants are a man’s garment. Let’s look at this from several angles because I know that many of you reading this article right now have the wheels in your head turning with all sorts of “rebuttals” and are probably saying some of them out loud in sheer joy. Yes, I’ve heard them all, and No, none of them are valid or logical. Let’s take them in order. Common rebuttal #1: *Pants are men’s and women’s garments/ there are pants for women that men would not be caught dead in.* Correct Response: It is true to say that in America and a lot of the world (not all) that pants indeed are a woman’s garment and yes, there are women’s pants I would not wear because of the colors/patterns; so what! Society has made pants woman’s garment, but since when do the decisions of society change or make void the Word of God? If you take some time to check history, public acceptance and wide spread wearing of pants by women did not begin until the 1940’s in America. From here, most of the world has followed. Let me take a parallel analogy. If society says that homosexuality is okay and it became widely accepted as “normal” (which is happening as I write this) then are we to then say it is not sin anymore? NO! So just because society has changed something that God established, this does not make it therefore okay in the sight of God. Common rebuttal #2: *Well in the day this verse was written, men and women both wore robes/gowns.* True, men and women in this day did wear robes. But the man’s robe was different than the woman’s robe and the one wasn’t supposed to wear the other’s robe. God is making this clear here. But more important, because they both wore robes, how does this have anything to do with pants. Both men and women wear shirts today and generally the shirts are different with different patterns and colors. There are still men’s shirts (found in the men’s departments of most stores) and women’s shirts (found in the women’s departments of most stores). Pants on the other hand are like dresses. They are very gender specific. Just as there are no man’s dresses, there are not woman’s pants. The bible mentions pants or hosen seven times and each time they are clearly in the context of a man’s garment. On top of that, just look at the way pants are engineered. They have a zipper/button fly. What is the function of the fly? It’s so a man can use the facilities while not having to take the pants completely off. Can a woman use the fly (equipped in most “women’s pants”)? NO! Pants, by design are a man’s garment. Dresses are a woman’s garment. Do not the signs on bathroom doors in public areas say as much? Have you ever looked at the symbols on public restrooms that denote either a man’s or woman’s bathroom? Society condemns itself. Common rebuttal #3: *Well if we are preaching to do verse five (man’s and woman’s dress) then we better being doing the other verses contained in these chapters such as, verse eight that says we must have a battlement for our roofs.* Of all the common rebuttals this one is the weakest. Actually, we do verse eight. The battlement being spoken of was a safety feature on the home. Did the home you are living in today have to pass a safety inspection? Mine did. Verse ten talks about not plowing with an ox and ass at the same time. That’s pretty simple, the one will not go at the same speed as the other one and so you will not have straight furrows. We could go down the list and find out that we do indeed do the other thing listed in this chapter. So, concerning pants on women and dresses on men, they are abomination. One is a man’s garment (pants) regardless of what

society has done with it and the other is a woman's garment (dresses/skirts) regardless of what society will do with it down the road. Let's continue. Amen.

**“Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover thy thigh, pass over the rivers. Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.” Isa. 47:1-3.**

Here we have another classic example of the difference between what society sees and what God sees. Let's not worry about the point of this passage in terms of what God is talking about. Let's rather focus on the fact that in talking about a certain thing, God let's us see that when the thigh is uncovered it is considered nakedness and a shame. That's right; according to God, the exposed thigh in public is nakedness. Society says nakedness is completely nude so as a result, many people and yes, professing Christians walk around in public in shorts not knowing or caring that according to God, they are naked. Let's take some more examples to further back this up:

**“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.” Gen. 3:7.**

We know the story; Adam and Eve ate the fruit and among other things, their eyes were opened. At this point they noticed that they were naked and so covered their private areas with fig leaves. What was God's response?

**“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.” Gen. 3:21.**

Yes it's true, the first sacrifice was made. But also notice, that God took the skins and made COATS out of them and clothed them. So God basically said, “I know you think you are clothed and covered with those fig leaves over your privates, but you're not, so here are some coats that cover your bodies.” The point of clothing is to cover your nakedness. Shorts and bathing suits do not cover your nakedness. Let's take another more example:

**“Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.” Jn. 21:7.**

Let me set the table here. Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, and John were fishing (vs.2). At some point Jesus appears on the shore and calls out to them. John recognizes Him to be Jesus and declares as much to Peter. Peter then puts on his fisherman's COAT and jumps into the water and swims to shore to be with Jesus. Notice that before the coat was on it refers to Peter as naked. My question to you the reader is, do you really think

Peter was out stark nude in broad daylight fishing with the other apostles? If you say yes, you are not being honest. Peter would have had something like underwear/shorts on. He had shed his coat for the work (not to walk down the street to be seen) and when he saw Jesus covered his nakedness and swam to shore to meet Him. Clearly the exposure of the thigh, chest, ect. in public is nakedness in the sight of God. Speaking of covering with coats or long garments:

**“And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.” Rev. 1:13.**

**“And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.” Mk. 16:5.**

Notice that both Jesus Christ and an angel are described as wearing long garments. In other words, God and His angels are covered. Are you? Clothes are functional; they are for a covering for our nakedness. Not everything we can put on our bodies however is functional. Let's now look at such things.

**“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.” 1Tim. 2:9-10.**

The Apostle Paul is writing to Timothy and instructing him as to how the women in the church (the Bible was written by men of God for men/women of God) should dress. Notice he says that their outward adorning should NOT be with such things as gold, pearls, or costly array. Rather, women of God are to “adorn” themselves (figure of speech) with shamefacedness, sobriety, and good works. Let's go ahead and list three common rebuttals and, as with the previous rebuttals, you will see that these are likewise ignorant and just plain silly. Common rebuttal #1: *This passage is saying that a woman should be modest in the jewelry she puts on.* Wrong! It says **NOT WITH!** If I ask you to bring me a hamburger NOT WITH ketchup you will bring me one with NO ketchup. You will not bring me one with a “little bit” of ketchup. Paul says not with and in common English, this means nothing, zero, none. Paul is not saying modest amounts of jewelry, he is saying no jewelry. Amen. Common rebuttal #2: *This was for the day Paul was writing in and does not apply today.* Are you kidding me!?! A few verses previous Paul tells Timothy that men of God everywhere are to lift up holy hands unto the Lord. Is this over too? If this was for this day only then you must concede that at least it was sin at one time for women in the church to wear jewelry. If you believe this then my question to you is: At what point did women in the church wearing jewelry go from being a sin to “okay”? Did this glorious event happen at 2:00 AM on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1174 AD? Did it happen at 6:23 PM on April 20<sup>th</sup> 1754 AD? And in addition, when it did happen how did all of the Christians in the world at that time become aware of it? Did God go to every Christian in a dream on that fateful day and say, “Hey, it was wrong to wear jewelry yesterday but go ahead and put it on today!!” Come on, if you believe this ridiculous nonsense then you are being willingly ignorant! Repent!! This is for today just like it was for the day Paul wrote it. Common rebuttal #3: *God mentions a bride decked in jewels in Isaiah so it must be okay.* Wrong again! Its true Isaiah does contain the following verse:

“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, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”

Isa. 61:10.

Isaiah is talking about righteousness and the beauty of being clothed with the garments of salvation. To help the readers understand how beautiful it is, he likens it to something many people would have a mental picture of, a bride and bridegroom in their attire. So what! This does not mean its okay to wear jewelry. Case in point: Jesus says He is coming again one day as a thief in the night. Does this therefore mean that He is a thief or that it is okay to be a thief? No! He knows that most people have an understanding of what “coming as a thief in the night” means and since He is trying to get across to us that He is coming again in such a way, He uses an example that most normal thinking people would understand and relate to. The passage in Isaiah is along the same lines. Amen. Let’s continue with this idea of outward adorning:

“And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life.” Jer.

4:30

Here, God is talking about His people and is likening them to a whore; (their “whoredom” was going after other gods). Notice that in describing a whore it mentions jewelry and the painting of the face (makeup). Good things if you are trying to draw the attention of possible male clients. But the scriptures we already listed in Timothy show that a holy woman of God is not supposed to be drawing attention to herself; she is to be shamefaced and NOT with jewelry. She is to wear modest, not attention drawing clothing. We will see in a bit that Peter tells holy a woman to be quiet and meek in her spirit; all things opposite of attention drawing. Amen.

“And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.” 2Ki. 9:30.

We see here that the witch Jezebel also painted her face. In addition, “tired her head” means to attire or dress her head so Jezebel was getting “all dolled up”. So biblically, we see that both harlots and Jezebel painted their faces. We also see that whores wore jewelry. We have also seen that God’s people are not to pattern themselves after the world. When you compare the attributes of a worldly woman; face painting and jewelry (Jer. 4:30/2Ki. 9:30), costly array, (2Tim.2:3-5/ 1Pe. 3:1-6) loud and stubborn and feet abide not at home (Prv. 7:6-27) versus a woman of God; discreet, keepers at home (Tit. 2:3-5), shamefacedness and sobriety (1Tim. 2:9-11), quite and meek spirit (1Pe. 3:1-6) you can see stark and diametrically opposed descriptions! Remember, we are to be separate from the world in how we dress, act, talk, eat, etc. I’m going to conclude this portion of the newsletter with the following passage that supports what we have already seen in Timothy:

they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 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." 1Pe. 3:1-4.

A few final words on jewelry; we are supposed to be dead to the flesh. Why then are we wanting to decorate it and make it pretty to look at? On top of this, we should only wear such things that have a purpose. I wear glasses to improve my eyesight. I wear a watch to tell time. I can even wear a wedding ring to show the world I'm married (yes, it has such a purpose). But can earrings help increase my hearing? Does lipstick help me talk better? Are you getting the point now? God has clearly spoken on this subject. I pray you obey Him for there's no other way to make it to heaven than to keep God's Word. Amen.

In conclusion, dear man or woman of God; as professed born again believers we are to be separate and different from the world. We are to be peculiar. God's people are to cover their nakedness, not flaunt it. God does not want to be our attention, drawing especially the women. This is in the sight of God of great

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