

Calling Out to Those Who Pass By

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

A. Prov. 9:14-15, 7:6-15

B. This is the other half of the study that began with A Covenant with My Eyes

1. There are certain biological factors that cannot be denied
2. There is the reality that men are visually attracted to women, and have the propensity to gaze with lust
3. Likewise, it is also evident that, consciously or unconsciously, women dress and act in such a way as to attract this kind of attention
4. Take this exhortation with the same grace and humility as the men took the lesson that applied to them

I. FEMININE MODESTY: THE OTHER SIDE OF THE QUESTION

A. Women, you are the object of this often uncontrolled desire common to men

1. Accordingly, this desire is not intrinsically evil, since without it your boyfriend or husband would probably not be your boyfriend or husband
2. You must recognize, however, that you have the potential to represent a stumbling-block to men
 - a. Do not insult your gender by trying to blame this on men
 - b. Do not insult the Lord by pretending to be surprised to learn that you have a role in this
3. Women do what they can to be attractive to men, and while this is understandable, Christian women have the responsibility to keep it from becoming a stumbling-block in a brothers' path - Rom. 14:13
4. Yes, there are some times when men will lust for a woman no matter what they are wearing, and has little power to do anything about it; you are not accountable for things outside your control
5. On the other hand, what is under your control makes you accountable

B. What are some reasons women give for dressing immodestly?

1. Never taught differently
2. Examples of other women (mom, sister, friends, media)
3. Ignorance of its effect on men
4. Desire for love from someone of the opposite sex
5. Lack of love for others (defiance)
6. To attract attention
7. To show off
8. Difficulty in finding modest clothing
9. Selfishness
10. Insecurity
11. Wrong role models
12. Love of the world, lust of the flesh, pride of life
13. Clothes ill-fitting (due to weight-gain, pregnancy, etc.)
14. Inadequate funds to buy replacements when clothes wear out

C. What is the real reason?

1. "It's our culture that teaches females to exploit their looks. It's a Western notion that women, it doesn't matter if they're married or not, need to appear sexually attractive to other men in order to have self-worth. It's a big part of the source of their power. Women don't feel like true "women" unless other men find them sexually attractive. This is what fuels the age-defying make-up industry, plastic surgeons, and the fashion world. Men display their wealth, power, and status while women display their appearance and sexual appeal. Many women find that it is the only thing they have going for them. A woman's instinct for display is as strong as a man's instinct to look." (Alan Auerbach, 7/24/06, General Psychology, Allexperts.com)

B. Survey of men: what types of women's attire cause them to struggle with temptation?

1. Short skirts (above the knee) 87%
 - a. Shortness was the major factor, tightness the second
2. Pants (snug) 48% Tightness the major factor; low cut waists
 - a. Vanity; if you are a size 11, stop trying to fit in a size 7; you are fooling no one but yourself
3. Sweat pants, jeans, casual attire 44%
 - a. Some comments: Casual in worship services may imply casualness about moral issues
4. Shorts 89% - Main issue, above the knee; tightness a factor
5. Shirts, Blouses 75% - Cleavage exposure mentioned most often
 - a. Sheerness, belly exposure also mentioned
6. Tube or tank tops, spaghetti straps - 91%
7. Dresses 62% - low cut, short, tightness were issues
8. Men were also polled regarding issues of temptation when dating
 - a. 54% of men admitted that they went on a date where their date was wearing clothing that was not modest
 - b. 85% of those men said that they never asked their dates to dress more modestly, some admitting that they liked it that way
 - c. 46% of those men thought that what their date was wearing was causing others to struggle with temptation

II. RELEVANCE

A. Women, these numbers are here to tell you that the men are having problems, and the majority is saying that part of the problem is what you are wearing

1. In a survey taken among Christian men at Norwalk, OH, just over half of the men said that they have struggled with temptation in the assembly because of what women have been wearing
2. 1Tim. 2:9-10; Rom. 14:13
3. Yes, the men need to control their eyes and thoughts; I have already preached that
4. While you may not see the problem with what you are wearing, if what you are wearing is causing your brothers to fight temptation in worship services, you need to ask yourself, is it worth wearing it?
5. All we ask of the women is to try to be a help and not a hindrance

- B. Application: You can actually cause a normal, well-balanced man (not some kind of pervert) to SIN if you wear provocative and revealing clothing
 - 1. And if you dress that way knowing that will be the result, you are a partaker in his sin
 - 2. 1Peter 3:3-5
 - 3. I am not suggesting that women should dress dull or drab, but rather in such a way that does not attract undue attention to their bodies, but rather their Christian spirit

III. MAINTAINING MODESTY

- A. Look at yourself from all angles in the mirror.
- B. View yourself in a mirror held at the vantage point of a taller man. Turn around and bend. Sit down as you normally do.
- C. Make time when dressing, so that if you find yourself uncomfortable with your level of modesty, you have time to change.
- D. When in doubt, don't buy it
- E. Ask your husband, brother, father about the clothing in your closet. Don't ask why or argue, just listen and learn for the time being. As men, they have a reason for their observations
- F. If you're a girl still at home and you have a godly mother, listen to her when she's telling you your clothes aren't modest
- G. Find a godly girl or woman who dresses modestly, and ask her to help you.
- H. Study the Word of God; pray for understanding

IV. WHY SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON MODESTY?

- A. Modesty reflects an understanding of what a woman truly is. If a woman answers she is a beautiful daughter of God, then modesty will naturally follow.
- B. Modesty isn't about dressing in unattractive clothes; it is finding clothing that brings out a woman's beauty without revealing her sexuality.
- C. Modesty attracts the kind of men a Christian woman wants to attract.
- D. Modesty helps to protect women as a needed defense against misuse.
- E. Modesty sets a good example. Young girls and teens need good examples of attractive women who are modest as a counter to the multitude who are not.
- F. Modesty states that women are worthy of respect. Respect can be easily lost when a woman tries to promote her body instead of her goodness.
- G. Modesty helps your brothers to avoid lust.
- H. Modesty allows your true beauty and quality to be seen.
- I. Modesty is a virtue that helps control behavior so we do not excite the sexuality of another. It is also a fruit of the Holy Spirit.