

## **WE DO (YOU and I) KNOW WHAT IS MODEST!**

As I recall, when I was young, my grandmother wore dresses that covered from neckline to shoe top. Some women then revealed more, but most of them knew, and so did others, they were NOT being modest. My mother did not wear dresses with hems above her knees. Some women did, but most of them knew, and so did others, they were NOT being modest. And it should also be noted that my grandmother, nor my mother were particularly “religious”.

Now, don't get ahead of me. I realize, if followed to a natural progression, the comments above might lead to the conclusion that if some people in our day go without any clothes, then any attire at all would be modest. But remember, nakedness was tried and because sin came into the world God had to make garments that would clothe both man and woman (Gen. 3:20-21). Surely, we know that sin is even more rampant in our day. →→→

My point is; that in every age men and women know the difference in modest and immodest attire. Especially, we who are “religious” know the difference, if our minds are controlled by the rational and righteous instruction of the Bible, and not by the emotional and “feel good” persuasion of the world. We must know that God holds us responsible for both the “intent” and the “effect” of our “actions” (that, also, means the “intent” and the “effect” of the clothes we wear). It will not change our responsibility, if we, or our parents say “they just have a dirty mind” when others are affected. People will answer for their own “dirty mind”, but we are admonished in so many ways to be a proper example (ie Matt. 5:16). Clothes that reveal more of the body than they should, either through skimpiness, or tightness, or that have pictures or words on them that are suggestive or vulgar are not modest. **I think we know that!!!**

(For the record, my electronic Merriam-Webster says, **MODEST**: 3 : observing the proprieties of dress and behavior : **DECENT**), and (W. E. Vine says, Modest: kosmos> "orderly, well-arranged, **decent**, modest" (akin to kosmos, in its primary sense as "harmonious arrangement, adornment;" cp. kosmos, of the world, which is related to kosmos in its secondary sense as the world), is used in **1 Tim. 2:9** of the apparel with which Christian women are to adorn themselves; in 1 Tim. 3:2 (RV, "orderly;" AV, "of good behavior"), of one of the qualifications essential for a bishop or overseer. "The well-ordering is not of dress and demeanor only, but of the inner life, uttering indeed and expressing itself in the outward conversation" (Trench, Syn., xcii). In the Sept., Eccl. 12:9. )

**It is not a matter of the elders or the church establishing a “dress**

code” with which members can quibble. It is a matter of doing what we know is right. It is a matter of being truly “spiritually minded”. It is a matter of “really” wanting to go to heaven. It is a matter of realizing this world is temporary, and there is an eternity. For as long as I can remember, preachers and elders have been contending with this “problem”. Yet, the “problem” remains, and will remain until Christians kneel under the Holy Mandate that teaches us we are not of this world. Jesus said, “**My kingdom is not of this world...**”(John 18:36) “... do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (ROM 12:2) **KNOW IT!** CAB