



SALT and LIGHT: Modesty

BY: Chris Harper, AD

In the 1990's Joan Brumberg wrote a book entitled, "The Body Project." The book was an extensive look at how the concept of self-image had changed over the course of 100 years. Primarily written for girls, in the introduction the author contrasts the diary of a teenage (adolescent) girl

The 1990's teenager wrote,

"I will try to make myself better in any way I possibly can with the help of my budget and baby-sitting money. I will lose weight, get new lenses, already got a new haircut, good makeup, new clothes and accessories."

"Mothers, what are your daughters learning from you? Modesty or mini-skirts? Daughters, what are we advertising to the world around us? Holiness or Hollister?"

in 1892 with a teenage girl in 1992. Concerning self, the 1892 girl wrote,

"Resolved, not to talk about myself or feelings. To think before speaking. To work seriously. To be self-restrained in conversation and actions. Not to let my thoughts wander. To be dignified. Interest myself more in others."

C. J. Mahaney writes, "the books cover summarized what was true a century ago: The idea of the day was inner beauty focusing on good deeds and a pure heart. In contrast, the environment for girls today is a new world of sexual freedom and consumerism – a world in which the body is their primary project."

Upcoming events

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8/14 – V Volleyball @ Silver Creek, 7 p.m.

8/18 – Boys V Soccer vs. Lanesville, 6 p.m.

8/18 – Girls V Soccer @ Jeff, 6 p.m.

8/18 – Boys V Tennis vs. Madison, 5 p.m.

It is no coincidence that as church-goers shift from godliness to worldliness, our focus becomes good looks before good works. If you feel this is unfair and you are immune from this I ask a few simple questions:

What are you consumed with? Your clothing or your character?

What are you known for? Your good works or your good looks?

Mothers, what are your daughters learning from you? Modesty or mini-skirts? Daughters, what are we advertising to the world around us? Holiness or Hollister?

1 Timothy 2: 9-10 reads,

***⁹“I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes,
¹⁰but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.”***

So we do not take this out of context, the Bible does not forbid a woman making herself beautiful. Solomon’s wife adorned herself with jewelry, Esther had 12 months of beauty treatments, and noble women of Proverbs 31 wore “quality” clothing. Beauty is a gift from God to be used for His glory. What the Bible forbids and warns against is any measure where WE, either consciously or unconsciously, steal HIS glory. “Paul isn’t just advocating modesty in dress; he’s insisting that more time and energy be devoted to spiritual adornment in the form of good works. Paul is warning about excessive attention devoted to appearance while good works are neglected.” – Mahaney

So ask yourself, where do you spend your time and efforts? Is it on enhancing your life through your appearance, or enriching your life through His Word?

When you adorn skinny jeans, tights, skirts, and eyeliner, are you telling the world look at

me – or are others brought closer to God by your appearance?

Ultimately, your curves and bust, things you spend hours a week toning and thousands of dollars sustaining...do they speak to God’s glory – or do they simply cause those around you to stumble and fall?

We give little thought and attention to our appearance and dress concerning the Bible, even though the Bible goes to some length admonishing or encouraging those who are mindful. We, who as Paul said, “profess to worship God,” need to be especially mindful. May everything you do, from the words you speak to the pants you wear, exalt our Lord and tell of our Savior.

– Be well,

C. Harper, AD