

Lesson 25

The Principles of Outward Holiness

PART 1: Foundational Concepts on Holiness

Hebrew 12:14 *“Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”*

Introduction:

Holiness is the very nature of God. Webster’s Dictionary defines **“holy”** as *“dedicated or set apart for the service of God; living a life of spiritual purity.”* Holiness in our lives is conforming to the character of God and living the way that will please Him. Holiness is not to be considered as an option just for those who desire to walk a little closer with God. Rather, the Lord sees it as a requirement for every child of God. As our opening verse states, to *“follow peace with all men and HOLINESS, without which no man shall see the Lord.”* Because of our carnal nature, the spiritual character of holiness does not come natural to us. Thus, we need to follow holiness by **actively pursuing it**.

Definition & Scope of Holiness

1. **Holiness** comes from the Hebrew word which means *“separate from”*
2. Holiness is **separation** from the world and sin and **dedication** to God. (II Cor. 6:17)
3. Holiness requires the fear of God. (II Cor. 7:1)
 - Separation from the world involves the separation from the world’s **value system**:
1 John 2:15 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
4. Holiness involves a change in our **behavior & lifestyle**:
1 Peter 1:15 *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of **conversation**;*
 - The word *conversation* in King James English does not only mean speech, but is referring to behavior and **lifestyle**.

NOTES:

1 Peter 1:16

Be ye holy, for I am holy.

Other synonyms for holiness:

- Sanctified
- Consecrated

NOTES:

5. Holiness involves a **progressive separation** from the old life, the old thinking, the old values AND a **progressive dedication** to the new life and to the perfect will of God.

Eph 4:24 *And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

2 Cor 7:1

*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God.*

6. Holiness must first involve the **INWARD** aspect of our being, and then the OUTWARD.

Matt 23:26 *Thou blind Pharisee, **cleanse first that which is within** the cup and platter, that the **outside** of them may be clean also.*

- Inward holiness involves keeping a right spirit, a renewed mind, a guarded tongue, and having love for and unity with one another.
7. We must also strive for **OUTWARD** holiness.
- We should not judge a person exclusively by their outward appearance because we are all at different levels of holiness and only God can see the heart (1 Sam. 16:7).
 - But **that doesn't mean that our outward appearance does not matter to God**. For example, the Bible admonishes against *immodest clothing* (1 Tim. 2:9). Regardless of the culture or generation – immodest clothing still elicits the same reaction in the human race and male psyche.
 - God is concerned with our outward appearance, as it is a separation from the world, and it is **our WITNESS of the inward change God has made in our lives**.

Romans 12:1 *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.*

Three Reasons Why We Should Live a Holy Life:

1. To please GOD.

1 Cor 6:19-20

*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.***

2. For OTHERS.

Matt 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

3. For OUR OWN SAKE.

Hebrew 12:14 *Follow peace with all men and **holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.***

Our Personal Responsibility

God's **GRACE** and revelation gives us the power to live a holy life but we've got to **CHOOSE** to use the power: We **need to be submitted to His will by OBEYING His Word.**

2 Peter 3:14 *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, **be diligent** that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

- As we pursue holiness, we have the responsibility to lay aside every weight that distracts us from giving our all to God.

Heb 12:1 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside every weight**, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

- Some things that we do or partake of may not be an out right sin, but it could be a "weight" that we need to get rid of.

NOTES:

Being **WHOLLY** (giving our whole self to God) is the foundation to be **HOLY**.

By being full of the Holy Ghost - you won't have any room for carnality!

Three Teachers of Holiness

NOTES:

1. The BIBLE

- **Explicit Statements** – clearly stated instructions in the Bible.
For ex. *“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.”* (Exodus 20:16). We know without a doubt that lying is a sin.
- **Implicit Principles** – implied principles in the Bible that are applicable to every culture or generation.
 - a. Since the Bible is written to people of all cultures of all times, we need to look at the principles.
 - b. Some of the *situations* that the 1st Century church encountered have changed in our present day. But the *principles* that guided the people in the 1st Century should still guide us today.
 - c. Example: Drunkenness is a work of the flesh and drunkards shall not inherit the Kingdom of God:
Proverbs 20:1 *Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*
 - Note that the Bible does not mention anything about *marijuana* or *cocaine*. But the use or abuse of these drugs relate to the same principle of being drunk with alcohol.
 - The Lord wants to be the Lord of our life; the only One that satisfies us and He does not want our bodies to yield to anything else that would have power over us. Instead, He wants us to be full of the Holy Ghost!

All holiness teaching must come from the Bible. Some things are specific statements, while other things are principles that we must learn to apply to a different culture than what the Bible was written, which doesn't mean that it is any less than the teaching of God's Word.

2. Our Pastors and Teachers

- The Lord places godly leaders in our lives to guide us, such as our Pastor and teachers.

*Eph 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors and teachers**; For the perfecting of the saints ...*

- The Pastor does not have the AUTHORITY to take away or to add to God's Word, but has the AUTHORITY to **EXPLAIN** and **APPLY** the teachings of God's Word to our lives. *After all, the Bible wasn't written in the 20th Century and somebody needs to tell us what holiness means in today's context.*

3. The Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is our internal guide, **confirming** God's will and establishing godly **convictions**.

PART 2: Holiness in Clothing & Adornment

Introduction:

To truly understand and explain outward holiness in this day and age, we have to look at it from three perspectives.

First, what does the **Bible** teach concerning the issue? The Bible is our foundation of beliefs, and it's very important that we are able to back things up with the Word of God. **Second**, we must look at **history**. We must understand how our culture has changed, particularly in the past decade. What were the **motivating factors** that cause us to believe certain things are okay today when a little over 100 years ago they were wrong? We have to dig below the surface to see how our worldly culture has affected our standards of holiness. **Third**, we must take into account the **principles found in Scripture** and **our culture's history** when making up a standard for living holy in modern times.

In Part 2 of this lesson, we will look at several areas of holiness using these perspectives, with the goal of giving you a better understanding and deeper appreciation for dedicating yourself to God through outward holiness.

Qualities of Holiness in Clothing & Adornment

1 Tim 2:9-10

*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.*

AMPC: ⁹Also [I desire] that women should adorn themselves **modestly** and **appropriately** and **sensibly** in seemly (decent) apparel, not with [elaborate] hair arrangement or gold or pearls or expensive clothing,

GOD'S WORD Translation: ⁹I want women to show their beauty by dressing in **appropriate** clothes that are **modest** and **respectable**. Their beauty will be shown by what they do,^[a] not by their hair styles or the gold jewelry, pearls, or expensive clothes they wear. ¹⁰This is what is proper for women who claim to have reverence for God.

1. Modest

2. Appropriate (Shamefacedness)

- *Shamefacedness* means having a sense of shame such as, in what one should be wearing or should not be wearing.

3. Moderate (Sobriety)

- *Sobriety* means exercising moderation, being sensible and practical.

4. Having A Clear Distinction Between Genders

(This principle of outward holiness will be covered in Part 3)

MODEST

Means wearing *enough* or *proper* clothing that will not bring undue attention to certain parts of our body that promote **sensuality** (arousing desires that cannot be righteously satisfied), **vanity**, or **shame**.

NOTES:

Rev 3:18 *I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the **shame of thy nakedness** do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*

Examples of Immodest Clothing:

- Low necklines
- Short skirts and shorts
- See-through apparel
- Tight clothing

Note: Men by nature are primarily visually-oriented and so what may seem modest for the women may not seem modest for the men.

APPROPRIATE

Means having a sense of what is **PROPER, DECENT** and **RESPECTABLE**; *shamefacedness* is having a sense of shame: being ashamed of doing certain things or to be seen *with* or *without* certain things.

Examples of Inappropriate or Indecent Clothing:

MODERATE

Means being temperate and not showy; also means not resorting to extreme or unnatural means to adorn oneself. It is also the **opposite of vanity**.

1 Peter 3:3-4

*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.*

Examples of Immoderate Adornment:

1. **Extreme** style clothing or **costly** attire.
2. Ornaments – **jewelry***?
3. Artificial **pigmentation** of the body – **makeup***?

*Details of these topics will be covered later in the lesson.

Biblical Perspective (MODESTY)

1. There are many references to modesty in the Word of God, beginning with the first book, Genesis. Adam and Eve, after breaking the law of God in the Garden of Eden, made for themselves fig leaves (like aprons) when they realized their shame. But God found these fig leaves inappropriate and made animal skins for them to wear (*Gen. 3:7, 21*).

2. In *1 Timothy 2:9-10*, Paul teaches that women should dress modestly with decency.

Historical Perspective

1) For the advent of the movie industry in the 1920's we can see the rapid downward progression of clothing:

- In 1925 short skirts began to appear. For the first time a woman would show her ankle and calf – something that had never been done before.

- They began to shorten their skirts, tear out the sleeves (first sleeveless dresses), and add much ornamentation (bangles and fringe in gold and silver) to the hem, neckline, and sleeves of the dress.

- In 1939 women began to wear slacks.

- In 1960 we were introduced to the miniskirt, pants suits, hot pants, and short shorts

2) With immodesty being as widespread as it was in North America in the 1960s and 70s, it was the forerunner of pornography:

- Youth everywhere thought nothing of wearing immodest clothing at the beaches.

- The movie industry showed actors and actresses with less and less covering.

- Everyone was conditioned to accept nudity: a small step from immodest apparel to photographed nudity.

3) Hugh Hefner of *Playboy* believes that since the human body is beautiful it should be exposed.

4) According to Joan Beck, a Chicago columnist (*Akron Beacon-Journal*, January 1989), scientists reported in the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science: "Reported rapes doubled between 1960 and 1970 and doubled again between 1970 and 1980."

5) The infamous multiple murderer Ted Bundy stated in an interview with James Dobson in January 1989 that his life was warped by pornography and sexual violence in magazines, movies and T.V.

More on MODESTY ...

Q: WHAT IS GOD'S STANDARD OF MODESTY?

First teachings of modesty found in Genesis (Adam & Eve):

- After they sinned (disobeyed God), experienced shame from their nakedness.
- They covered themselves with *fig leaves* to form **aprons** = underwear/**bikinis**
- They felt 'covered' but not when they were in the presence of God; still felt naked (Gen 3:10), afraid and hid from God.
- God make them COATS of animal skin (Gen. 3:21)
Coats = ROBES

Q: HOW MUCH OF OUR BODY SHOULD WE COVER?

1. Many Bible commentaries define these garments (ROBES) as clothing that covers the body at least from the **NECK** to the **KNEES**.
2. **Isaiah 47:2-3** talks about how God describes **nakedness**: *"You can make bare your leg, you can uncover your **THIGH**, your nakedness will be uncovered, your shame will be seen."*
 - **THIGH** comes from the Hebrew word, **SHOWQ**, translated as - **THIGH, HIP, LEG, and SHOULDER**.
 - So, for us not to appear as naked and shameful in God's eyes – we need to cover our thighs, hips, legs, shoulders (*and of course, everything else in between*).
 - Each Pastor has the responsibility to define these standards of modesty for their assembly.
 - a. For ex, how far down from the **thigh** should you go? *At least covering the knees so that when the ladies sit down, it is still modest.*
 - b. For ex, how far down from the **shoulder**? *Sleeves that don't show the underarms.*

Why is this so important?

- A man is visually oriented.
- David fell in adultery after looking and lusting after a woman.

NOTES:

Our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

- We should wear clothing that conceals, not reveals
- We should hide the flesh so that we can show the Spirit
- We should cover up the body, so that the soul can shine through.

In **Matt. 5:28**, Jesus teaches a higher law, that he who looks and lusts after a woman – has already committed adultery.

What is God's View on Jewelry?

Biblical Perspective:

1. In the Old Testament, **putting away jewelry** was a sign of **CONSECRATION** to God. (Gen. 35:1-7)

Gen 35:1-7

35:1 *And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God ...*

2 *Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, **Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:***

3 *And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress ...*

4 ***And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem ...***

2. **Jewelry began in Egypt.** The Israelites borrowed the jewelry from the Egyptians – not the other way around. You **never** see in the scripture where the Lord tells them to wear the jewelry. In fact, this jewelry caused them to get in trouble in Exodus 32:1-4.

Ex 32:1-4

32:1 *And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, **make us gods,** which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.*

2 *And Aaron said unto them, **Break off the golden earrings,** which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.*

3 *And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.*

4 *And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had **made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods,** O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

NOTES:

Once again, the putting away of jewelry was a sign of consecration to God:

Ex 33:4-6

*And when the people heard these evil tidings, **they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments.***

*For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: **therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee,** that I may know what to do unto thee.*

And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb.

3. 1 Peter 3:3 tells us to not let our adorning be with the **outward wearing of gold**, but to let our appearance show that we represent Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3:3-4 *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.*

4. In Jeremiah 4:30, Judea is likened to an **immoral** woman who is dependent on the artificial methods, such as gold ornaments, to escape judgment.

Jer 4:30 *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.*

5. Ezekiel 23:40 tells the story of a **harlot** who adorned herself with ornaments meant to attract attention to herself (vanity).

Ezek 23:40 *And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and **deckedst thyself with ornaments**,*

6. In Isaiah 3:16-21, God judged the Israelites for their **ornaments** and their **haughty attitude**. So, jewelry was also associated with the sin of **PRIDE**.

Isa 3:16-21

*16 Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are **haughty**, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: 17 Therefore the LORD will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts. 18 In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their **tinkling ornaments** about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon,*

NOTES

7. In Hosea 2:13, the Lord gives a prophecy concerning Israel. He explains that in the days of Baalim, when Israel was turning away from Him, they did a few things. The woman to which He refers is Israel. She **decked herself out with jewelry** and **went after other gods**. She was playing a **harlot** and **adulteress** in the sight of God.

Hos 2:13 *And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the LORD.*

*19 The chains, and the **bracelets**, and the mufflers, 20 The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the **earrings**, 21 The **rings**, and nose jewels,*

The Historical Perspective of Jewelry:

In studying the history of jewelry, we don't see many references to people wearing anything until the time of the Egyptians. Before that time, it was mostly shells or rocks that people would wear around their necks or arms.

Most jewelry that originally was worn was used to show that they worshipped a certain god: *In Egypt, they worshipped the sun god, Ra by wearing a sunburst carved into gold on your arm, neck or head.*

The Pharaoh and his household wore a lot of jewelry in the form of signet rings, wide collared necklaces that covered them down to their chests, golden crowns and head pieces, bracelets of gold around their upper arm and their lower wrist, and many other smaller types of jewelry. They wore these things **to represent their personal wealth, their position above all other people and as talismans to ward off evil.**

Throughout the rest of history, through the ages of the Greeks, the Byzantine Empire, the development of Europe, the discovery of America and down to the present times, jewelry has continued to be used to **show wealth, power, and position.**

Henry VIII of England had the most opulent collection of jewelry and his daughter, Elizabeth I, loved wearing large amounts of jewelry all over her body.

During this time there was a great separation between the rich aristocrats and the poor. It was also during this time that King Louis XIV of France and his queen, Marie Antoinette, caused the French Revolution due to their personal opulence while the rest of the country was so poor they could not eat.

History shows us that the true start of jewelry came with the Egyptian kingdom and was used as a way to worship all their gods. In the Bible, Egypt is used as a type of sin or the world. The one true living God shows us through His Word that each time He wanted someone to draw closer to Him, He requested them to take off their jewelry and other things that represented the world.

NOTES:

By analyzing all these perspectives, we must be able to conclude that man's motivation or purpose for wearing jewelry was for **selfish** and **vain** reasons. And as we closely examine the Bible, we see how God hated jewelry because it was associated with immoral things – such as **idolatry, vanity** and **pride**. Be it known that our God is not only a *holy* God, but is also a *jealous* God who will not share His glory with any other idols, such as ornamental jewelry.

What is God's View on **Makeup**?

Biblical Perspective:

1. The Bible tells us in Genesis 1 that we were made in the image of God. We were created to reflect to the world His image and His glory.
2. In the Bible, every reference to painting the face is **NEGATIVE** and is used in conjunction with the **SIN of LUST**.
3. In **2 Kings 9:30**, the ungodly queen Jezebel painted her face to try to entice Jehu and keep him from killing her. Somewhere in Jezebel's life this ploy had worked before, and here she was trying it again:

"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."

4. **Proverbs 6:24-26** is a portrait of a seductive woman. It lets us know that this woman was trying to destroy something precious by enticing someone with her looks: *"Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her **eyelids**."*
5. In **Jeremiah 4:30**, Judea is likened to an immoral woman: *"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.**"*
6. In **Ezekiel 23:40-44**, the painting of the eyes is used to describe Israel and Judah as two adulterous sisters.

Note that the biblical principle concerning the use of makeup seems to **apply** to the **other forms** of body pigmentation that are relevant in our present culture. Other forms of artificial pigmentation of the body: *tattoos, nail polish, and hair dye.*

NOTES:

Ezekiel 23:40-44 have
⁴⁰ *And furthermore, that ye sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, **paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments,*** ⁴¹ *And satest upon a stately bed, and a table prepared before it, whereupon thou hast set mine incense and mine oil.* ⁴² *And a voice of a multitude being at ease was with her: and with the men of the common sort were brought Sabeans from the wilderness, which put bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads.* ⁴³ *Then said I unto her that was old in **adulteries, Will they now commit whoredoms with her, and she with them?*** ⁴⁴ *Yet they went in unto her, as they go in unto a woman that playeth the **harlot**: so went they in unto Aholah and unto Aholibah, the **lewd women.***

7. In the book of **Esther**, a young Jewish girl is among the candidates chosen to be the new queen. Esther 2:13 tells us that as each maiden's turn comes to go in to see the king, she is given the opportunity to choose whatever adornment she wanted or felt she needed. In **Esther 2:15** the Bible tells us that Esther "**required nothing**" before approaching the king, yet she was the most acceptable.

- This story is a great analogy of holiness. As Esther's whole objective was to be pleasing and accepted by the king, our responsibility is to be pleasing and accepted by our King. He created us as we are, and we need to be careful not to pick up the ideas of the world on beauty.

8. David acknowledged the perfection of God's creation in **Psalms 139:13-14**: *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.* NIV

Historical Perspective of Make-up

1. In the 1920's when the **movie industry** began, all pictures were black and white. So, to be able to make the actresses' and actors' faces stand out, they had to apply enormous amounts of make-up.
2. One actress in particular was famous for introducing the practice of wearing make-up off the set and into public. Her name was **Theda Bara** and her nickname was "Vampire." She was given this name not as it relates to the story of Dracula, but because she was said to seduce and destroy men on screen. Movie theaters were packed each night to watch her "vamp" another young man. She influenced women of that day to throw moral caution to the wind, paint their faces with extreme make-up and go out on the town for a night of "vamping."

Any Christian should be able to understand that this is not an influence that we should follow.

3. The original use of makeup dates back to **Egyptian** times. A heavy, dark make-up called "**kohl**" was used to outline the tops and bottoms of the eyelids. Any woman made up in this manner signaled to men that she was a prostitute and available.

The spirit of makeup is not from God. It indicates a spirit of **lust** and **adultery** according to the Word of God. **The use of makeup comes from a long history of prostitution** and, in the most recent past, **the movie industry**.

God made us in His image and desires for our appearance to reflect His glory at all times.

It is important that we understand the motivating factors behind an issue and determine whether or not it is good for us to be involved in that issue.

Makeup has become a tool Satan uses to convince women, in particular, that they are not beautiful as God created them (using makeup as a "mask" to cover up their "imperfections" that they can not accept).

We must be careful not to fall into his trap of worldly ideology. Let our appearance reflect the glory of God completely.

PART 3: Principle of the Separation of Genders

NOTES:

1. In the beginning, God made a **distinction** between the male and female genders.

Gen 1:27

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; **male** and **female** created he them.*

2. Eight times scripture mentions the phrase "**abomination unto the Lord**" in reference to things that **God hates and always will hate**. One of them is:

Deut 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.

3. This means that having a visible distinction between a man and a woman is of **MORAL CHARACTER** in God's eyes.
4. What is the **distinction** that we need to have in terms of male and female garments?
 - The garment that primarily represents a male is **pants** and the garment that primarily represents or distinguishes a female is a **dress or skirt**.

Biblical Perspective

1. The key to understanding Deuteronomy 22:5 is the word "**pertaineth**."
 - The idea of a "woman's slacks" in our Western culture came from men's pants. So, it still pertains to a man's garment.
2. The book of Deuteronomy covered both ceremonial and moral laws.
 - We would know that a specific verse is of **moral** importance when it clearly states God's extreme reaction of hatred towards it and God's character can not change (*Heb. 13:8*).

3. **Abomination** is a very strong word that was used to describe God's feelings towards women that wear men's garment and for men that wear women's garment.
 - God despises it when there is no clear **distinction** of dress between a man and a woman.
 - And the Bible says that **ALL** that do it are an abomination to God (*whether they are aware of it or not*).
4. God is revealing an implicit principle of **separation between genders**. The devil's ploy is to cause confusion by blurring the distinction between male and female.
5. Note the **OTHER** manifestations or forms of **violating** the principle of separation of genders:
 - Transvestites
 - Homosexuals/Lesbians
 - Same-sex Marriages
 - LGBTQ's

God's principle of the "separation of genders" or having a **clear distinction of genders between male and female** has been covered in the Bible both implicitly and explicitly.

The **SIMPLEST** form of violating this principle is in one's manner of **CLOTHING**. It is very relevant that God stated this one as an "**abomination**" since clothing may seem to be less obvious as a violation of scripture compared to the other more obvious forms, such as homosexuality.

God, in His omniscience, sees the end from the beginning. That as man violates this distinction between genders in its **lowest** form, that it will cause man to be more open to entertain the other "**progressive**" violations of distinction between the male and female gender.

In this current generation, you and I can witness how far our society has crossed the line between what's moral and what's immoral, or to what used to be called as "abnormal" to what is now considered to be "normal."

NOTES:

Pagan Roots:

Crossdressing existed in ancient pagan worship. The Israelites in their rebellion worshipped the goddess of crossdressing, named **Astoreth**, who displayed and promoted gender blurring.

Cultural Perspective

Even our culture acknowledges the distinction between male and female in clothing.

1. Despite the differences in “traditional costumes” that every culture may have (*i.e. the Kilts from Scotland wore skirts*), they all agree with one major distinction between sexes in clothing.
 - **Every bathroom door** across America has **two symbols, one representing male and one representing female**. The male symbol is a man in pants; the female symbol is a woman wearing a triangular skirt. And it is common to find this distinctive sign in restrooms all over the world.
2. The definition of the word “**trousers**” in the dictionary shows that the garment is distinctively men’s clothing.
 - It is defined in Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary (c1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.) as “**a garment worn by men and boys, extending from the waist to the knee or to the ankle, and covering each leg separately.**”
 - Many people want to say that pants or trousers are female clothing, but culturally and by definition, they are men’s clothing.
3. Our present culture even uses phrases to denote the fact that pants are a sign of gender and authority.
 - We ask, “*Who wears the pants in that family?*”
 - We associate pants with the male or leadership role in the family.
4. You can also observe that women are treated with more preference and respect when they wear skirts or dresses.
 - Pants give woman a “masculine” image versus dresses that portray more femininity and modesty (*by not accenting the crotch area, or the shape and partition of legs*).

Thus, even in our culture we cannot say that clothing does not define what gender role we are trying to play.

NOTES:

Historical Perspective

How did we get to the point where pants are an acceptable piece of clothing for women? What were the **influencing factors** in this change in culture? Remember that Paul tells us in Romans to be transformed or changed, and not to conform to the culture around us.

1. The idea of wearing split pants came directly from the **Women's Liberation Movement**.

- The women who started this movement were all extremely liberal in their thinking and very opposed to submission to men or to the Bible.
- In the 1770's the leader of the movement was Mary Wollstonecraft. She wrote a book entitled, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* in 1792. She rebelled against all the moral and decent laws of that day, even living with a man and giving birth to a child out of wedlock.
- Then in the 1800's two women stepped forward to try to push the women's movement even farther: Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were both greatly opposed to the Bible, especially on the subject of divorce.
- On July 19, 1848, the first Women's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York.
- It was only two years later, in 1850, that women began to wear trousers (at that time called bloomers) underneath shortened dresses.
- Amelia Bloomer, a feminist editor, was the first to start this trend, thus the name "bloomers." In her magazine, *The Lily*, said in 1851 that she hoped "*female readers will not be shocked by her appearance or that her male readers would not mistake her for a man*" (quoted beneath a cartoon rendering of her in her "bloomers").

2. In the **1920's**, **THREE** things took place that began our blurring of the gender lines:

- **First was World Wars I and II.** Men went to war and women had to step into their jobs. As women began to take on more and more of the male role in society, their dress began to change as well.

NOTES:

- **Second was a renewal of the Women's Rights Movement** that took place around that time. Women began to realize that if they were going to take on the men's responsibilities in the workplace, they wanted the men's rights as well.
 - **Last was the advent of the movie industry.**
3. One of the greatest influential figures of the 1920's and 1930's was an actress by the name of **Marlene Dietrich**: She was a self-proclaimed bi-sexual and her favorite item to wear was a man's double breasted pants suit.
 4. Once America began this diet of war, women's rights, and movies, it wasn't long until they began imitating what they were seeing:
 - In **1939**, women began to openly wear slacks.
 - In January 1955 the **state of California passed a law giving women the right to wear trousers to work.**
 5. For the advent of the movie industry in the 1920's we can see the rapid downward progression of clothing:
 - In 1925 short skirts began to appear. For the first time a woman would show her ankle and calf – something that had never been done before.
 - In 1939 women began to wear slacks.
 - In 1960 we were introduced to the miniskirt, pants suits, hot pants, and short shorts.
 - The designers of the 1960's said they were striving to make "unisex" clothing – in other words, clothing that could be worn by either sex.
 6. Through the next decades we have seen clothing drastically change:
 - Today clothing has been so gender-blurred that it is hard tell a man from a woman many times.
 - As women have taken the male gender roles, men have stepped back into the female gender roles. Men today wear earrings, they have grown their hair long, and they wear multiple rings and necklaces.
 - Often times it is hard to determine the gender of people when their backs are turned to us.

NOTES:

How have we become so DESENSITIZED?

- Women started rebelling against their God-given roles (submission to man and modesty);
- Influence of World Wars 1 and 2 on the woman's role
- Influence of the Women's Rights Movement
- Women started "wearing the pants" in the house;
- Women were no longer discriminated by law to publicly wear pants in 1955.
- Women also started exposing their flesh – *shortening their skirts and tearing out their sleeves, etc.*
- Influence of the Movie Industry on what was projected to be "attractive" and "acceptable" to society.

Historically, our concept of what is acceptable for a man to wear and for a woman to wear has been influenced by ungodly groups and social movements. We cannot follow after movies, the Women's Rights Movement, and other things that are not of God. These are Satan's tools to distract us and make our lives not pleasing unto God.

The truth of the matter has not changed: our culture still uses pants to identify males and skirts to identify women. We must conclude that women should abstain from wearing pants just as men should abstain from wearing skirts or dresses. We must develop a strong love for God and His ways so that we can overcome the influence and pressures of the world.

PART 4: HAIRLENGTH in the Bible

1 Cor 11:3-6

*But I would have you know, that the **head** of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his **head covered**, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her **head uncovered** dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.*

For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

1 Cor 11:14-15 *Doth not **even nature itself** 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's Standard for Hair:

MEN to have **short, cut** hair, and WOMEN to have **long, uncut** hair.

The condition of our hair reflects two things:

1. Our obedience to setting a **CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN GENDERS** (Gen. 1:27).
2. A sign of our **SUBMISSION** to **AUTHORITY**.

NOTES:

1 Corinthians 11:3-16 (Easy-to-Read Version) *3 But I want you to understand this: The head of every man is Christ. And the head of a woman is the man. And the head of Christ is God. 4 Every man who prophesies or prays with his head covered brings shame to his head. 5 But every woman who prays or prophesies should have her head covered. If her head is not covered, she brings shame to her head. Then she is the same as a woman who has her head shaved. 6 If a woman does not cover her head, it is the same as cutting off all her hair. But it is shameful for a woman to cut off her hair or to shave her head. So she should cover her head.*

8 Man did not come from woman. Woman came from man. 9 And man was not made for woman. Woman was made for man.

*10 So **that is why a woman should have her head covered with something that shows she is under authority.***

*Also, **she should do this because of the angels.** (see notes on next page regarding the angels).*

14 Even nature itself teaches you that wearing long hair is shameful for a man. 15 But wearing long hair is a woman's honor. Long hair is given to the woman to cover her head.

*16 **Some people may still want to argue about this. But we and the churches of God don't accept what those people are doing.***

Biblical Perspective

1. Definition of Biblical Terms:

- **Head** (*of every man*) – spiritual authority
 - Man’s head = Christ
 - Woman’s head = Man
- Head **covered** - hair allowed to grow long - having something down the head
(per *Vine’s Expository Dictionary*)
- Head **uncovered** – restricting hair to grow long or to have short hair
- **Long** hair – uncut hair or hair that is allowed to grow long
 - From Greek word – “*Kome.*” The same term used to describe the Nazarites, who were forbidden to cut their hair.
 - *Long hair in this verse does not pertain to the actual length of the hair since women of different race and culture may have hair that only grows to a certain length while others may have hair that can grow to enormously long lengths. It pertains to the condition of being uncut (long) or cut (short).*
 - *Hair **trimmed** in God’s eyes is the same as being short or “uncovered”, and so God emphatically says that you might as well shave it all off (1 Cor. 11:5-6).*

2. Nature’s Perspective

In 1 Cor. 11:13-15 Paul talks about what nature teaches. We instinctively view long hair as being a female attribute and short hair as a male attribute. It is not that we are trained that way, but God created that nature within us.

3. Chain of God’s Authority

Our hair is our glory, and it represents our covering in the chain of God’s authority. In I Cor. 11:2, Paul refers to the way we keep our hair as ordinances or laws. He is instructing us on how to be pleasing to God and maintain our relationship with Him.

NOTES:

About the Angels (1Cor 11:10)

The woman must acknowledge that her submission is not just about her. Since we are a part of the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God, we have to believe that the **supernatural realm** is involved with us and in our participation with the Lord and His work.

Since the **angels are subject to God and His authority**, in order for them to be involved with us (as ministering spirits), **we also need to be submitted to God’s authority** (and our uncut hair is a sign of our submission to God’s authority).

About the NAZARITE Vow:

The NAZARITE VOW was not for the purpose of separating or demonstrating separation “from the world.” It was a very specific designated PERIOD OF TIME for the one taking the vow to refrain from all normal daily activity and focus on God. The “separation” demonstrated by the NAZARITE VOW actually **separated** a person **from other believers**, not from sinners. Furthermore, there is absolutely NO Scriptural evidence of the Nazarite Vow being enjoined in the New Testament except in a Jewish context. There is NO evidence or implication anywhere in the NT that any Gentile believer EVER took a Nazarite Vow!

It cannot be certainly determined why God would have the Nazarites let their hair grow, except that by this present mark of their consecration, they might be more reminded of their vow.

Historical Perspective

1. The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge explains the situation in biblical times: “women **never** cut their hair and long hair was their greatest ornament (1 Cor. 11:15). To cut off a woman’s hair was the greatest contumely (humiliation) (Jeremiah 7:29; I Cor. 11:15).
2. World Book Encyclopedia: “Short hair styles became popular in the 1920’s. Irene Castle, a famous ballroom dancer, started a fashion: Bobbed (cut) hair for women.”
 - During the era when the men were going to war and the women were taking on the men’s jobs, women went into barber shops and asked for a “bob.”
 - The term “bob” was used because it changed a woman’s hair from looking female to looking male, and they used a man’s name for the haircut.
3. The cutting of women’s hair began with the advent of the Women’s Rights Movement and movie industry in the 1920’s.
 - In a feminist work, Femininity, Susan Brownmiller has argued that feminine modes of behavior and appearance that serve to distinguish women from men need to be abandoned.
4. At the same time that women began cutting their hair, they also began to shorten their skirts, tear out the sleeves (the first sleeveless dresses), and add much ornamentation (bangles and fringe in gold and silver) to the hem, neckline, and sleeves of the dress.
5. News stories from 1920’s:
A petition was circulated at Warsaw and signed by thousand of orthodox Jews, asking rabbis to refuse to perform marriage ceremonies for women who have bobbed hair, wear short dresses or use rouge. The petition submitted to the rabbinical council asked that the fathers and husbands of such women be excluded from the synagogues.

NOTES:

A woman’s hair **signals** to the **spirit world** whether she is in **rebellion** or **submission**.

The CUTTING of HAIR was a sign of **humiliation, rebellion** and **shame**.

NOTES:

6. In 1922 there were 5,000 beauty shops, and in the next two years there were 23,000. By the year 1924, 70% of all women in New York had bobbed their hair.
7. In the 1960's modern historians agree that this was the age of "rebellion:"
 - People rebelled against the law, against the war, against government, against their parents and against all morality and decency of that day (the Sexual Revolution).
 - Women cut their hair extremely short (*pixie cut*).
 - At the same time men were growing their hair out as a sign of rebellion: The look of the 60's for men was hair below the shoulder blades, unkempt, with long sideburns and mustaches.
 - These people didn't even understand they were rebelling against a spiritual precept.

In virtually every society of the world for thousands of years it has been considered proper for men to cut their hair and for women to leave theirs uncut. You will see a common thread of rebellion (against authority and morality) and deception (through media) as you study how far our present culture has drifted from the principles that God has set from the very beginning. You will also learn that popularity should not be our measure of God's will in our lives. We must be diligent to pursue holiness in our goal to please God in all of our ways.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:" (Hebrews 12:14)

Topic Outline of the Principles of Outward Holiness:

Part 1: Foundational Concepts of Holiness

Part 2: Holiness in Clothing and Adornment

- Being Modest, Appropriate and Moderate
- Biblical Definition of Modesty
- Biblical Perspective on Jewelry and Make-up

Part 3: The Principle of Separation of Genders

Part 4: Hair Length in the Bible