

# Priestly Garments

As God provided clothing for Adam and Eve, (**Genesis 3:21**), He also specified garments for the priesthood to wear in the Old Testament.

God was particular about the garments worn by the men who were dedicated to Him. (**Exodus 28:1**) In **Exodus 40:13-15**, the Scriptures reveal instructions concerning the garments of the priests.

This was not Moses' Law; it was God's Law. The priests were unique individuals in the Nation of Israel. Their work was holy; thus, their garments had to be holy.

These priests were God's representatives and had to reflect Him. This same responsibility is also true today for those who represent Christ.

Each part of these priestly garments proclaimed a message to the world about God. On these garments, the priest wore a plate of gold inscribed with the words, "Holiness to the Lord". (**Exodus 28:36**)

This article would remind the priest that since God was holy, these garments were to represent holiness. These garments accomplished several important things.

**First**, they made the priests themselves aware of the dignity of their office and encouraged better conduct on their part. They gave the people a reminder that the priests were special.

These garments consecrated them so they might minister to God. To look at the priests was to immediately be reminded of the Holy Everlasting God to whom everyone must someday give an account.

When they walked through the camp, their dress made people think of God. An important principle is evident here; those who are dedicated to God's service are to reflect Him.

In **1 Peter 2:9**, the Scripture says that the Church of Jesus Christ is a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people. In **2 Corinthians 3:2**, the Scripture says that we are an **“epistle”** known and read of all men.

We are a royal priesthood today walking through the “camp”. Should not a wholesome looking, Christ-centered, Bible-reflecting Christian give some direction to those who are lost? If the city set on a hill is to be seen, it must have some distinguishable aspects.

Television and radio and the internet are pumping out sensuality non-stop. Parents are frustrated trying to raise children in the midst of this ungodly atmosphere.

- Should Hollywood, that is filled with men and women who have no regard for God, be allowed to dress the saints?
- Should they set the standards for what we wear?
- Why not the Church? Why not Godly Pastors who are watching for the souls of their congregations?

Pastors should be able to give guidelines in dress codes without being labeled “legalist”.

There is a danger here of overemphasizing discipline in the Christian life.

Sometimes attitudes such as bitterness, envy, strife, and other conditions of the heart exist while one is wearing modest clothes.

This would give the impression that all is well. We must reject such distortions, even though they may exist. When someone practices an outward dedication to God while allowing his heart to harbor bad attitudes and hard feelings against others, he negates his outward display of holiness.

The sinner immediately turns away from this individual. Any Christian who exhibits this kind of behavior is ineffective. In simple truth, people are what they are, not what they say they are. We must always examine ourselves and seek the Lord for His help. The Scripture says this in **Psalms 139:23-24**.

A final point to note in God's dress code for those consecrated to Him in the Old Testament priesthood was modesty. The priests were God's representatives reflecting His holiness and were to regard His principles of covering. (**Exodus 28:42-43**)

Concerning God's altar, the Scripture said this in **Exodus 20:26**. It is clear from the first two books of the Bible that God intends modesty.

In today's world, there is a deluge of sexuality in the media and advertising. Many fashions promote this sexual teasing. We realize that the fashion world cares nothing about the long-term consequences and effects of this sexual emphasis.

We, who want to live Godly in this present world, must beware when we clothe ourselves and our children. Notice the account recorded in **Luke 8:35**.

Yes, Jesus cleansed his heart, but the cleansing was reflected in the man's outward appearance. The Apostle Paul also addresses this subject in **1 Timothy 2:9-10**.

Adhering to the principle of modesty is not an attempt to be saved by works, but it is a response to God's grace, and it is taught in the Word of God.

We believe it is important to encourage people to break loose from the sinful patterns of the world and live righteously. **(Romans 12:2)**

In **1 Peter 3:3-4**, the Scripture says this. Peter admonished the women in the New Testament Church not to pattern their outward appearance after the world. The Apostles realized the enormous importance of modesty and separation.

In the last Book of the Bible, Jesus said this in **Revelation 16:15**. When Jesus is described in **Revelation 1:13**, He is described as being clothed down to the foot.

The Bible gives us an extremely strong warning in **James 4:4** about being a **“friend”** of the world and its worldly ways. Throughout the Old Testament, God warned Israel to be separate from all of the Nations around them. **(Jeremiah 10:2, Exodus 19:6, Deuteronomy. 7:6)**

## Conclusion

The clothes that we wear send a message to all those around us. The Bible says that man looketh on the outward appearance. **(1 Samuel 16:7)**

Our outward appearance is the first impression and maybe the only impression that we make on those around us. **Hebrews 12:14** tells us that without holiness, no man shall see the Lord in our life.

The clothes we wear influence our lifestyle, our relationships with one another and our commitment to God. It is evident that the clothes we wear are important to God or else He would have never addressed this important issue in His Word.

The Scriptures make it very clear that Holiness should be the lifestyle of the righteous. If we are part of God's royal priesthood, then we should put on our priestly garments every day.

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