

“GOD’S DRESS CODE”



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NON-CHRISTIANS RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR A DRESS CODE: “THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED...HALTERBACKS, TUBE TOPS, SPAGHETTI STRAPS, SKIMPY DRESSING, EXPOSURE OF UNDERGARMENTS”



THE FOUNDATION OF “GOD’S DRESS CODE”

The foundation of God’s Dress Code is what He wants us to do in the Holy Scriptures. The Holy Scriptures is given by “inspiration of God”. This means that God told the writers of the Holy Scriptures what He wanted them to say and what He wanted them to write. What they wrote were not their own preferences based on their individual desires, influenced by the cultures in which they were born, educated, lived and died; but it is what God Himself wanted, and it was different from what people in the cultures in which the writers of the Holy Scriptures were born, wanted. This dress code applies to all people: God’s People and those who are not God’s People. (See 2nd Tim.3:16-17; compare Lev.18:1-5, 24-30; Rom.12:2)

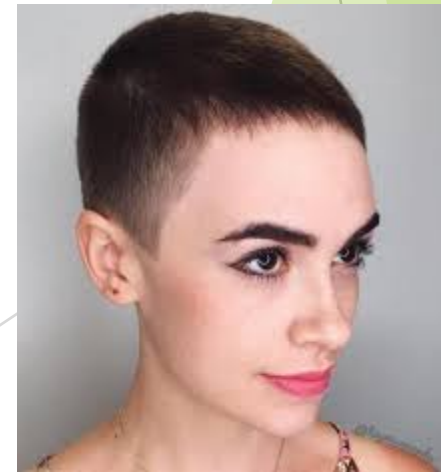
DRESS CODE NUMBER 1: A MALE MUST NOT DRESS LIKE A FEMALE, AND A FEMALE MUST NOT DRESS LIKE A MALE

1. God made human beings “male and female” (Gen.1:27).
2. God does not want the differences between “male and female” to become blurred (Deut.22:5).
3. The difference between “male and female” applies also to the amount of hair on one’s scalp or head (1st Cor.11:14-15).
4. Today some males want to dress like females, and some females want to dress like males.
5. Today some males want to wear their hair long like females, and some females want to wear their hair short or bald like males.

Male dressed like a
female



Female with short
hair as a male



DRESS CODE NUMBER 2: THERE ARE CERTAIN PARTS OF THE BODY THAT ARE “SECRET” OR “PRIVATE”

1. God teaches that there are certain parts of the body that are to be out of the public’s eye, for they are “secret” or “private”. (Deut.25:11)
2. These parts of the body are also described as “uncomely”, that is “unpresentable”. (1st Cor.12:23-24)
3. To expose these parts of the body is said to be a “shame”. “Nakedness” in Ex.28:42-43 and in Ex.20:26, has other shades of meaning from the Hebrew word, ‘Erwah. These are “indecent”, “shame”, “shameful”, “foul thing”, and “filthiness”. The context of each Scripture will have to determine when any one of these other meanings may be used in translating this Hebrew word. (William Holladay, Concise Hebrew Lexicon Of The Old Testament, ‘Erwah, page 283; Langenscheidt, Pocket Hebrew Dictionary, ‘Erwah, page 259)
4. This is why even though Adam and Eve had sewed fig leaves together and made themselves “aprons”, God later intervened and made “coats of animal skins” and “clothed them”. (Gen.3:7,21) “Coats” is from the Hebrew word “Kothnoth”, which is the plural form of “Kuttoneth”. It is a “long shirt-like garment” or “tunic”. (William Holladay, Concise Hebrew Lexicon Of The Old Testament, Kuttoneth, page 167; Langenscheidt, Pocket Hebrew Dictionary, Kuttoneth, page 153) Notice that “a long shirt-like garment” would cover the top part of the body, above the waist, and would pass the waist and cover at least part of the legs, such as the thighs. This implies that the parts of the body, covered by this “long shirt-like garment”, were “secret” or “private”, and were not to be exposed in public. The “aprons” had not covered all of the “secret” or “private” parts of the body, and this is why “long shirt-like garments” had to be made.
5. This is why also God required of the priests, the Spiritual Leaders of His People in the Old Testament, to wear linen “breeches” or “shorts” or “underpants”, from the waist to the thighs, beneath their robes, and this is also why God forbade Moses from making an altar with steps, so that the priests would not have to climb, and people see their nakedness under their robes. (Ex.28:42-43; 20:26)

DRESS CODE NUMBER 3: DO NOT DRESS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CAUSE SOMEONE TO LUST AND TO COMMIT SOME SEXUAL SIN

1. The “secret” parts of the body are those which tend to cause the average person, who sees them, to lust, and which may eventually lead them into some sexual sin.
2. Sin is not only what a person says or does, which breaks one of God’s Commandments; but it is what a person keeps on thinking about, imagining, and desiring in their heart, which goes against what God has commanded. (Matt.15:18-19)
3. Lk.17:1 teaches that “offences will come”. This word, “offences”, is from the Greek word, “skandala”, plural, or “skandalon”, singular. It means whatever causes someone else to stumble or to fall into sin. If by one’s dressing, it causes someone looking on to desire to commit fornication or adultery, or to actually commit fornication or adultery, then God will hold the person, who has caused someone else to sin by the way he or she has dressed, accountable, that is, guilty, and deserving of punishment.
4. If the male expose part of his underpants, he may cause a female to lust after him in her heart. He would have caused her to sin.



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4. If the male expose the muscles in his belly, and it causes a female onlooker to lust, he has caused her to sin in her heart.



DRESS CODE NUMBER 3: DO NOT DRESS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CAUSE SOMEONE TO LUST AND TO COMMIT SOME SEXUAL SIN

5. If a female wear a “see-through” clothing, then the secret or private parts are no longer secret or private, but are visible for everyone to see. In addition to this, what the male see, may cause him to lust in his heart and sin. In Gen.3:21, the materials, which God used to make “long shirt like garments”, were “animal skins”, and these were not “see through” materials. To show how much God wanted to avoid “see through” clothing, is that in addition to the long robes of “priests”, God had them put on underpants from the waist to the thighs. (Ex.28:42-43)



DRESS CODE NUMBER 3: DO NOT DRESS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CAUSE SOMEONE TO LUST AND TO COMMIT SOME SEXUAL SIN

6. If a female wear short skirts or short pants, and a male onlooker lust in his heart, then she has caused him to sin.



DRESS CODE NUMBER 4: DO NOT GO TO EXTREMES IN EXPENSIVE ADORNMENT

Not only should we avoid under-dressing, so that private or secret parts are not exposed to public viewing, which might cause some to lust and to commit fornication or adultery; but also we should avoid over-dressing, that is, emphasizing elaborate or fancy hairstyles, and covering one's self with golden ornaments, pearls and very expensive dresses.

What should be emphasized is the inner adornment of a “meek and quiet spirit”, being “chaste”, “being in subjection to their own husbands”, and being filled “with good works”. (1st Tim.2:9-10; 1st Pet. 3:1-6)



CONCLUSION

God's "Dress Code" is based on what God wants us to wear, but it is not based on what is culturally acceptable. God's Dress Code applies to God's People and also to those who are not His People. We are to follow God's Dress Code. If the cultural standards of dress, go against God's Dress Code, we are to follow God's Dress Code. (2nd Tim.3:16-17; Lev.18:1-5,24-30; Rom.12:2)

1. God does not want males to dress like females, nor for females to dress like males. (Deut.22:5)
2. There are certain parts of the body that are "private" or "secret", which should not be exposed publicly. (Deut.25:11; Gen.3:21; Ex.28:42-43; 20:26)
3. Do not dress in such a way as to cause someone to sin in their thoughts, imaginations, desires and actions. (Matt. 15:19-20; Lk.17:1)
4. Do not go to extremes in expensive adornment. (1st Tim.2:9-10; 1st Pet.3:1-6)