

# CLOTHING

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.** But do this with gentleness and respect, 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

# Topic: Clothing

## Discuss and Summarize the Secular Worldview:

Sample Summary: Clothing is used to protect us from the elements and is a fashion statement expressing our personal style. We can wear whatever clothing we want.

## Discuss and Summarize the Christian Worldview:

Sample Summary: Clothing is mentioned repeatedly throughout scripture because God is trying to move us from a sinful state to a redeemed state and clothing is symbolic of that. After Adam and Eve sinned, they hid and sewed fig leaves together as a covering. God gave Adam and Eve their first set of clothing, tunics, from animals that were sacrificed for their hide, possibly even still bloody. We wear clothing as a covering for our shame after the fall. In our sin, we wear defiled clothing. Jesus' death and resurrection can cleanse us with His blood and provides us pure, white garments to wear.

## Why This is Important:

Wearing clothing is normal, yet we rarely think about why we do it and how it impacts others until someone wears clothing to make a political or cultural statement.

## Scripture Says:

Genesis 3:6-11, Genesis 3:21, Genesis 6:14, Exodus 28, Leviticus 19:19, Deuteronomy 22:5, Deuteronomy 22:11, Job 1:21, Proverbs 31:21-22, Isaiah 61:10, Zechariah 3:1-5, Malachi 2:16, Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Galatians 3:27, 1 Timothy 2:9-10, Hebrews 4:13, 1 Peter 3:3-4, Revelation 3:1-6, Revelation 7:9-15

## Worth Considering:

- Animals don't wear clothes. Not all climates of the world require clothing for warmth. Because all cultures wear clothes, it's an indicator the validity of the Genesis account where Adam and Eve cover their nakedness and part of our shared cultural history.
- The ark had a covering of pitch. Moses's mother put him into a pitch covered basket into the Nile River to save him from being

killed by the Egyptians. The doorposts of the Hebrew people had a covering of blood from a perfect sacrificial lamb to protect them from the angel of death at Passover. Jesus' blood covers our sin.

- There is a biblical thread throughout scripture of our need to wear pure garments. The vision of Joshua in heaven required that he remove his defiled garments and was given new, pure ones to wear. This foreshadows the cleansing of sins through Jesus blood, washing us clean and adorned with white robes.
- Moses was given detailed laws on what priests were to wear and how their garments were to be purified, some requiring animal sacrifices.
- God's commands regarding clothing specified women and men were to not wear each other's clothing and for the Hebrew people to not wear garments of mixed materials, indicating the importance of purity and appropriateness in clothing.
- We can do nothing as a sacrifice for white robes, but it must come from another's worthy sacrifice. This sacrificial blood doesn't stain, but washes white, symbolizing purity. It is a substitutionary sacrifice and only Jesus Christ is worthy.
- Modest or appropriate clothing seems to be a hot topic between teens and their parents in every generation. Clothing can be worn to intentionally draw attention to ourselves, particularly when it is overly revealing. This can become a distraction and draws attention and glory away from God and towards ourselves.
- Peter describes beauty as a gentle and quiet spirit, precious in God's sight.

## Questions to Consider:

- Thomas Jefferson said, "In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock." How do you view his statement in light of scripture on clothing?
- Genesis 1 describes God making them male and female. Today's culture celebrates cross-dressing of the sexes, drag queens, gender fluidity, and more. What should be our response to this as Christians? How can we be accepting of the person but not the behavior of another to maintain influence with them?
- Some churches have embraced blessings of drag queens and LGBT activity. What should be our response?
- It can be visually easy to identify sinful behavior through clothing choices while most sin is not visible to others. How do you think Jesus would balance the tension between law and grace in these situations? How should churches? Individuals?
- Has today's discussion made you reconsider any of your views?