

Introduction:

There are certain Bible words which we tend to already have a “feeling” for before it is discussed. For instance, discipline, just mentioning the word brings up some image or reaction from most people. Whether we are talking about parental discipline or congregational discipline, people already think they know where this is going. Such is true for the word “modesty”, most likely you already have some kind of idea of what this is about, women’s or men’s clothing. While it does have application in that area it is a much bigger word.

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

I) Defining Modesty

A) Dictionary.com

1. Noun- the quality of being modest; freedom from vanity, boastfulness, etc.
 - a. We may speak of a modest proposal
 - b. Modest home
 - c. Modest amount of money saved
 - d. Modest accomplishments
 - e. Modest clothing
 - f. Example: Larry Knechtel part of a group called “the wrecking crew”. The group consisted of some of the best musicians you have never heard of, and performed on

some of the biggest albums produced by some of the biggest bands. Such as Jan & Dean, Sonny & Cher, the Momma's and the Papa's, 5th Dimension, Frank Sinatra, etc.

- i. Larry Knechtel was perhaps the best as the group had such people as Glenn Campbell. Larry played harmonica, guitar, piano, bass. Piano on Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Waters", organ on "Good Vibrations", and many other songs.
 - ii. Yet he never sought the lime light, eventually he was part of the group "Bread."
2. regard for decency of behavior, speech, dress, etc.

B) Passages

9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 1 Timothy 2:9

1. How should a Christian woman act?
2. Notice the emphasis is "not" the gold or pearls or costly clothing; but modest apparel, propriety, and moderation.
3. simplicity; moderation.
 - a. A basic disposition that makes possible certain demands and modes of conduct.
 - b. Broadest definition includes rationality, prudence, and temperance (self-restrain).
4. Modest comes from Kosnios - Trench says this proper order

“extends not only to dress and demeanor but also to the inner life, which expresses itself in outward conversation.

5. Same word used in **2 A bishop then must be blameless 1 Timothy 3:2-** respectable, or good behavior.

II) Modesty

A) Making it known that I am foreigner

1. Common language “I am not from around here”

*Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, **12** having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. **1 Peter 2:11-12***

2. The world often boast and revels its fleshly lust. Recently on “TikTok” a woman showed a sign held up by a man “Dress Modestly” she berated him because it was at a beach. Without specifically saying so she got across the idea that nobody dresses modestly there.

*And you shall answer and say before the LORD your God: ‘My father was a Syrian, about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. **6** But the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us. **7** Then we cried out to the LORD God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and looked on our affliction and our labor and our oppression. **8** So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. **9** He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, “a land flowing with milk and*

honey”; 10 and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O LORD, have given me.’

“Then you shall set it before the LORD your God, and worship before the LORD your God. 11 So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you. Deuteronomy 26:5-11

3. Israelites were to have the concept they were still strangers and aliens in Canaan.
4. Being different is in the New Testament. Paul spoke of his citizenship being in a heavenly kingdom.

B) Opting to change my lifestyle

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1-2

1. Transformed – metamorphosis- by changing the way you think, look on things.
2. Jesus gets to the heart of the matter.

When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, “Hear Me, everyone, and understand: 15 There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. 16 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!”

17 When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His

disciples asked Him concerning the parable. 18 So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, 19 because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" 20 And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man." Mark 7:14-23

3. Changed behavior comes after the way we think. Sins we commit comes from the heart (mind).

C) Drawing attention to God, not myself

1. Less of me and more of Christ.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

2. Who is your spotlight shining on?

D) Establishing my identity as God's child

1. We are to cloth ourselves in Christ.

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave

nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26-29

2. Not saying men are no longer men, or women are no longer women, but in Christ we are all united in our purpose and character.
3. Willing obeying the word of God.

E) Serving God, not impressing other people

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 1 John 5:2

1. There are things in the Bible I might like but that does not matter.
2. Obedience does not hinge on my approval but God's will.

F) The standards of the Savior never change

1. Who am I trying to impress?

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. Galatians 1:10

2. Whose approval am I seeking? Do I let Hollywood guide my behavior in dress and conduct? My friends, peers, etc.?

G) Your body is not your own, but the Lord's

1. As Christian's we realize we have been redeemed, purchased by the blood of Christ.
2. Therefore, I am his servant, His slave. The mantra "My body is my own, and I will do with it what I please" is that of the world but not of the Christian.

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

III) Application

A) Modesty in clothing for both men and women.

10 And there a woman met him, With the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart. 11 She was loud and rebellious, Her feet would not stay at home. 12 At times she was outside, at times in the open square, Lurking at every corner. 13 So she caught him and kissed him; With an impudent face she said to him: 14 "I have peace offerings with me; Today I have paid my vows. Proverbs 7:10-14

1. Clothing says something about us, it reveals something of our character.

B) Goes deeper, to matters of the heart and spirit.

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. 2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? James 2:1-4

1. Who am I trying to impress?
2. What am I calling attention to?

Conclusion:

Do I have an alien/stranger mentality? This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through, if heaven's not my home I don't know what I'll do. Keep your eyes on heaven as you walk through this life.