

**HOLINESS** is the topic of my 13<sup>th</sup> book! The following is a small excerpt of this 75,000-word book. Author, Charles A. Rhodus © 2025 Copyright

This book will be exhaustive both biblically and historically, and may be the most thorough book of its type written by an Apostolic author! [www.charlesarhodus.com](http://www.charlesarhodus.com)

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## God's Word Transcends Culture — Why Deuteronomy 22:5 Still Applies Today

*A Timeless Truth in a Changing World*

Deuteronomy 22:5 declares:

**“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.”**

In today's culture, this verse is one of the most challenged and dismissed commands in all of Scripture. Some argue, “That was written thousands of years ago in a totally different culture—it doesn't apply anymore.” Others say, “Our society doesn't think like they did back then, so we should not hold people to the same standards.”

But such reasoning is built on a dangerous foundation—one that elevates **cultural opinion over divine authority**. If we apply that logic consistently, any biblical command that makes people uncomfortable could be discarded. That would mean no moral standard at all, and no certainty about right and wrong.

The truth is this: **God's moral laws are not bound to culture or time—they are rooted in His eternal character.**

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### God's Character Never Changes

Malachi 3:6 says, *“For I am the LORD, I change not.”*

Hebrews 13:8 affirms, *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”*

From Genesis to Revelation, God's standards for holiness do not shift with the winds of fashion, politics, or human opinion. The same God who condemned cross-dressing in Deuteronomy 22:5 is the God who reigns today.

This verse is not simply about ancient clothing styles—it's about **preserving the God-ordained distinction between male and female**. In Genesis 1:27, God created mankind in two distinct sexes, male and female. That distinction was not a cultural accident; it was a divine design.

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## The Word “Abomination” Carries Eternal Weight

Deuteronomy 22:5 says that cross-dressing is an “abomination” to the Lord. This is the same Hebrew term (*toeval*) God uses to describe:

- Idolatry (Deuteronomy 7:25)
- Homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22)
- Witchcraft (Deuteronomy 18:10–12)
- Dishonest business practices (Proverbs 11:1)

These are not minor offenses in God’s sight—they are deeply offensive to His holiness. And while dietary restrictions from the Old Testament were lifted in Acts 10, there is **no verse anywhere in Scripture** that removes or weakens God’s moral law about gender distinction in dress.

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## Culture Cannot Cancel God’s Commands

The most common objection to applying Deuteronomy 22:5 today is that “times have changed.” But if moral truth changes with time, then truth isn’t truth, it’s just opinion.

Consider: if God’s command against cross-dressing was purely cultural, why does the New Testament continue to affirm gender distinctions in appearance and behavior?

- 1 Corinthians 11:14–15 affirms that men and women are different not just biologically, but in outward appearance.
- Romans 1:26–27 warns of the moral decline that follows when God’s design for the sexes is ignored.

The biblical principle is clear: clothing and appearance must reflect the God-given identity of a person’s sex. It is about **visual testimony** to the Creator’s design.

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## Why the Manufacturer’s Label Doesn’t Excuse Disobedience

Some say, “These pants are made for women, so it’s not the same as wearing men’s clothing.” But simply sewing pants in a different cut does not erase the historical and cultural fact that pants have long been a symbol of male attire.

If a man were to put on a “man-made” skirt designed for males, the cultural message would still be one of gender reversal. The same applies in the other direction. God’s law is not about who stitched the garment—it’s about whether the clothing imitates or appropriates the opposite sex’s apparel.

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## The Spiritual Root of the Issue

The modern rejection of Deuteronomy 22:5 is part of a larger spiritual problem: **the blurring of God-given boundaries**. The enemy of our souls has been working since Eden to distort God's order. Today, that distortion appears in gender confusion, unisex clothing, and the erasure of masculine and feminine distinctions.

When God calls something an abomination, it is not for one era or one nation—it is a timeless moral offense against His holiness. The Church's calling is to stand in alignment with God's truth, even when the culture mocks or resists.

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## Why This Matters Now More Than Ever

Our generation is watching gender roles collapse in real time. Cross-dressing is celebrated in entertainment. Fashion brands erase lines between men's and women's clothing. School systems encourage children to experiment with gender expression.

In such an environment, **holding to Deuteronomy 22:5 is not legalism—it is obedience**. It is a visible way of declaring:

- God made us male and female.
  - Those distinctions matter to Him.
  - They should matter to us.
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## Conclusion — Timeless Truth in a Temporary World

The passage of centuries has not diminished the authority of God's Word. Deuteronomy 22:5 is not a cultural relic; it is a moral safeguard given by an unchanging God.

As followers of Christ, we are not called to blend in with the shifting morals of society. We are called to reflect His holiness in every part of our lives, including how we dress. This is not about outdated traditions—it's about eternal truth.

God's people must remember: **Culture changes. Truth doesn't.**

And the truth is this—what God once called an abomination, He still calls an abomination today.