

A Harlot's Attire

"And there a woman met him, with the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart" (Proverbs 7:10).

Nothing hurts a child of God more than being accused of dressing like a harlot when they don't realize they are doing so. People often make vain attempts to justify sin by claiming ignorance. If someone doesn't realize that they are dressing in a provocative manner, does it mean it is not sin? Of course not. It may not be the intention of a saint to dress immodestly, but if they are, it is still sin if they are clothed in a lascivious way (Gal. 5:19).

So what can Christians do to make sure they are not dressing like a harlot? They need to understand what dressing like a harlot means and avoid it. To begin with, a harlot has seducing on her mind. Therefore, she must dress in such a way that advertises her body. The clothing is to be revealing. Here is a short list of how one reveals their body for show:

1. Clothes that are very tight. This means the contour of the body is clearly revealed.

Remember, dressing like a harlot is not being nude. The seductress first lures people with her body to entice them to want more. Tight clothes are a signal that says, "look at my body."

2. Clothes that reveal flesh. We are not talking about someone not wearing socks or a long sleeve shirt. The flesh we are talking about are parts of the flesh that are not meant for the eyes of everyone. This would include shirts too short. When someone cannot comb their hair without revealing a midriff, then it is too short. Of course, some have it showing without even lifting their arms. Then there are tops with the neck line cut way too low. Also, we have the shorts and short skirts and skirts with slits that go to the thigh. Finally, we have the see through material that people like to wear.

The question is, if everyone dresses like a harlot, does that mean it no longer exists? No. Our society is bombarded with advertising that uses sex-appeal. They use people that dress like a harlot to sell everything from cars to gum, and from clothing to music. The reason for this is, sex sells. I am told that a movie that doesn't require a provocative scene for the story line, will often have one added just to get a higher rating. Why? It draws people in.

Society has made a distinction between a harlot and one who dresses like one. In God's eyes, both are sin. It doesn't matter if an innocent, naïve child just wants to dress like a music star - it is inappropriate dress. Somewhere along the way, people have grown accustomed to dressing like a harlot and think it is perfectly fine. As stated earlier, when the majority is doing it, it's difficult to see the harm.

The lust of the flesh (1 John 2:16) is one of Satan's strongest tools. Men that lust after women because of the way they dress, are often considered to be dirty minded. That may be the case, however, in the Proverb passage that speaks of the harlot, we are told that she tries to seduce young men who come by (Prov. 7:6-8). Let not the innocent, who dress immodestly, be unaware of how they can tempt the onlooker who is also naïve.

There are two misconceptions about harlot attire that need to be addressed.

1. It is wrong to think that as long as no one touches you, that your attire is okay. Jesus spoke about the sin that occurs just by looking and thinking about a woman (Matt. 5:28).

2. It is wrong to think that as long as you cover the basic parts of your anatomy, it is okay. Remember when Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves, it wasn't enough. God gave them skins to cover them up (Gen. 3:21).

It is important that we understand what this article is not saying. It is not saying: 1. That you should be ashamed of your body; 2. That you should always wear four layers of clothing, even in the summer; 3. That you shouldn't dress nice.

What is being said is, to dress the way God wants is going to take an enormous effort. People who don't care if they dress like a harlot can go to almost any store and buy whatever they see. Christians can't do that. It is almost like shopping in a harlot's closet. Just what do we expect to find in the world? The world is offering worldliness and we can not conform (Romans 12:1-2).

Keep in mind that when Jesus was teaching of the kind of example we ought to set, He didn't say, "Let your bodies shine before men, so they can see your good form." He did say, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"

(Matt. 5:16). Let us open our eyes and make sure that we dress modestly.

- by **Chuck Bartlett**

Lying

We've all heard the jokes about politicians - - "How can you tell if a politician is lying? If his lips are moving!" It is truly a shame that their past conduct has branded them with such a terrible reputation. Surely their potential for doing good has become severely limited because of their inclination to tell lies. Christian, do see a lesson there? Can you understand the critical need for honesty in all that we do? The Scriptures have a good deal to say about this...

"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another." (Ephesians 4:25)

"Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight." (Proverbs 12:22)

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds." (Colossians 3:9)

From these verses we conclude that honesty is necessary in order to:

1. Maintain our relationship with others (*"we are members one of another"*)
2. Please the Lord (*"lying lips are an abomination"* to Him)
3. To demonstrate that we have truly been converted (*"put off the old man with his deeds"*)

Christians, remember that *"all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death"* (Revelation 21:8).

- by **Greg Gwin**