

A woman in a long black dress stands against a blue background, holding a book. A white dove is flying over the text.

# Christian MODESTY

FEIKOAB PARIMAH

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Unless otherwise stated, all scripture quotations are from the World English Bible (WEB). All emphasis are mine.

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# **DEDICATION**

## **A MESSAGE TO OUR BELOVED SISTERS**

This message is set forth not to undermine any ones devotion and service to God and Christ Jesus our Lord. Rather, is to lay bare according to the measure of the grace of God upon the writer, truth which will help our beloved sisters serve God in the good, acceptable and perfect will of God;

*"Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2*

Looking critically at the text above, you will notice that;

- ❖ We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice (thus, it must be dedicated to God).
- ❖ The body should be holy unto God.
- ❖ Our body must be presented in a way that is acceptable unto God.
- ❖ We are not to conform to the world.
- ❖ We should rather be transformed by the renewing of our mind, which can only be, if we know God's will for our lives as enshrined in the Holy Scriptures.
- ❖ When our minds are renewed, then we will be able to prove what is the good, well-pleasing and perfect will of God.

You and I know we were once in darkness and Christ came to deliver us from it. It however does not end there, as we are also according to scriptures being translated into His marvelous light. When we submit our minds to this marvelous light, there is the illumination and driving away of dark thoughts and vain imaginations. Most sisters these days feel so comfortable to wear certain indecent clothes, but still say it does not matter what one puts on. They have believed a lie from the devil that, Christianity is only a matter of the heart. I wonder your reaction if one slaps you and says oh! Am happy for you that's why I did that? Will it just be a matter of intention minus the corresponding consequence?

Against the back drop of this notion, I am



stirred in my spirit to reason with my beloved sisters in the Lord concerning indecent dressing. To help us make progress in our understanding of the subject matter in question, I will like us to consider a dialogue between brother John (a matured Christian) and sister Pat (a new convert) who sincerely wants to know if what she wears really does matter to God. I believe the answers brother John gives to sister Pat's intelligent questions will lead us to a true conclusion as to how God views our appearance (what we put on as a covering for our nakedness).

**Pat:** Does God really care about what I wear as a young lady?

**John:** Scripture at times describes in vivid

terms the clothes of Jesus Christ (our glorified Lord) as in line with Revelation 1:13; “And among the lampstands was one like a son of man, clothed with a robe reaching down to his feet, and with a golden sash around his chest.”

We are also not left in the dark as to the appearance of His holy angels in Revelation 15:6; “The seven angels who had the seven plagues came out, clothed with pure, bright linen, and wearing golden sashes around their breasts.”

Also, the saints in heaven as well as the 24 elders as in line with Revelation 4:4 and 7:9 are pictured in the following; “Around the throne were twenty-four thrones. On the thrones were twenty-four elders sitting, dressed in white garments, with crowns of gold on their heads.” and “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude,

which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.” Respectively.

Scripture also reveals the specifications for the garments of priests in the Old Testament according to Exodus 39:22-27; “He made the robe of the ephod of woven work, all of blue. The opening of the robe in the midst of it was like the opening of a coat of mail, with a binding around its opening, that it should not be torn. They made on the skirts of the robe pomegranates of blue, purple, scarlet, and twined linen. They made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates around the skirts of the robe, between the

pomegranates; a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, around the skirts of the robe, to minister in, as Yahweh commanded Moses. They made the coats of fine linen of woven work for Aaron, and for his sons,”

It can therefore be clearly deduced from these scriptures that, wearing of garments started way before even we were created. Please when was the last time you saw or heard of an angel who was not properly clothe? At least these should begin to draw your mind to the truth that God is concerned about what we are clothe with as even Matthew 6:30 reveals; “But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today exists, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, won't he much more clothe you, you of little faith?”. One other important truth

we must take note of is, the designing of clothes have a spirit behind it. If certain clothes are designed to cause people to lust after you and to promote disorder in the society, then it's coming from the marine kingdom.

When Adam and Eve sinned and their nakedness came to their knowledge, they sewed fig leaves as aprons in their bid to cover their nakedness as in line with Genesis 3:7 and 3:21; "The eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons." "Yahweh God made coats of skins for Adam and for his wife, and clothed them."

When God saw the leaves were not proper to be used in covering their nakedness, He

made a coat of animal skin for them to be used as a covering. He however continued to unveil His redemptive plan to successive generations by this act. God could have just watched them wear their aprons, but He saw it was not good, acceptable and perfect in His sight. How then can we say God is not concerned about what we wear?

**Conclusion:** So you see, God is concerned about what we put on as garments for covering our nakedness.

**Pat:** Ok, Is Christianity a matter of only the heart?

**John:** Scriptures make it bare, Christianity is not a matter of only the heart but rather starts from the heart and leads to a corresponding outward manifestation of

God's desired behavioral change. God is interested in the transformation of our spirit, soul and body even as they are preserved until His glorious appearing. This is revealed to us in 1 Thessalonians 5:23; "May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

When we become believers, our spirit gets connected to God and our soul comes alive. As we continue in the light by the virtue of our connection with His word, the filth of the soul and flesh is exposed and forsaken as we live in obedience as in line with 2 Corinthians 7:1; "Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

Due to the necessity for a change in the inner man, Paul instructed the church of Colossae to put on the following virtues; “but now you also put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and shameful speaking out of your mouth. Don't lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old man with his doings, and have put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge after the image of his Creator,... Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance;... Above all these things, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection.” Colossians 3:8-10, 12, 14 it's therefore impossible for one to claim to put on Christ without a corresponding change in outward appearance and character. Christ commands that we should let our light



shine wherever we find ourselves. He made this known to His disciples in Matthew 5:13-16; "You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its flavor, with what will it be salted? It is then good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men. You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill can't be hidden. Neither do you light a lamp, and put it under a measuring basket, but on a stand; and it shines to all who are in the house. Even so, let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Light as we all know, is able to make objects visible in the dark upon its introduction. We as children of God are supposed to expose the wrong in the society and not to be partakers of it;

*"For you were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth, proving what is well pleasing to the Lord. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them." Ephesians 5:8-11*

If ladies who are light and are supposed to show and teach other ladies apparel which is good, acceptable and perfect in the sight of God rather join the band wagon, then where is the distinction between the ladies of light and those of darkness? Pat, you are therefore challenged to wake up to the call of duty and peculiarity as in line with Isaiah 52:1-2; "Awake, awake, put on your strength, Zion; put on your beautiful garments, Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into

you the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake yourself from the dust; arise, sit [on your throne], Jerusalem: loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, captive daughter of Zion.”

There are also a group of our sisters who appear to be decent only on the outward but completely void of Christian character. Such are only exhibiting traits of empty religion and hypocrisy, for what they portray outwardly is not in consonance with what is inward. They should however pay heed to 1Peter 3:2-3.

These two groups, thus, those who claim Christianity is only a matter of the heart and the other who only show outward piety are both living in self-deception and consequently are at risk, in being eternally damned in hell fire if they refuse to repent of

their ways. Christ taught in Luke 6:45 that; “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings out that which is good, and the evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings out that which is evil, for out of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks.” And in Matthew 7:17-20, He said; “Even so, every good tree produces good fruit; but the corrupt tree produces evil fruit. A good tree can't produce evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree produce good fruit. Every tree that doesn't grow good fruit is cut down, and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them.”

According to what Christ taught His disciples, it's clear if our hearts are pure, then there will be an automatic change in character and appearance. The reverse of this is false and a perversion of the Holy

Scriptures. I will be very pleased if you could consider the Principles of Christian Dress as enumerated by Samuele Bacchiacchi, Ph.D., Andrews University, in *Christian Dress and Adornment (chapter 7)*. The following are the seven principles Samuele suggests;

Principle one - Dress and appearance are an important index of Christian character. Our outward appearance is a visible and silent testimony of our Christian values. Clothes are important for Christians because they serve as a frame to reveal the picture of the one whom the Christian serves.

Principle two - Adorning our bodies with colorful cosmetics, glittering jewelry and luxurious clothes reveals inner pride and vanity, which are destructive to us and

others.

Principle three - To experience inner spiritual renewal and reconstruction with gold, it is necessary to remove all outward besetting objects of idolatry including jewelry and ornaments.

Principle four - Christians should dress in a modest and decent way, showing respect for God, themselves and others.

Principle five - Christians should dress soberly, restraining any desire to exhibit themselves by wearing eye-catching clothes, cosmetics or jewelry.

Principle six - Wearing finger rings is not compatible with the Biblical principles of modesty. Historically, they have tempted

people to wear all kinds of jewelry. The only finger ring mentioned in the Bible several times is the signet ring which was used to seal various documents and contracts. It was regarded as an instrument of authority rather than an ornament.

Principle seven Christians should respect gender distinctions in clothing by wearing clothes that affirm their male or female identities as in line with Deuteronomy 22:5. The Bible does not tell us what style of clothing men and women should wear, because it recognizes that style is dictated by climate and culture. The Bible does teach us to respect the gender distinction in clothing as it is known within our own culture. This means, as Christians we need to ask ourselves when buying clothes; Does this clothing affirm my gender identity, or

does it make me look as though I belong to the opposite sex? In Samuele's own conclusion, 'clothes do not make a Christian, but Christians reveal their identity through their clothes and appearance'.

**Conclusion:** Sister Pat, the truth is, when you cooperate with the cleansing work of the Holy Spirit in your heart by living in obedience, He changes your character and outward appearance in order for it to be good, acceptable and perfect in the sight of God.

By the way, I must express my joy at your keen interest to know the truth about this subject. God bless you, as He is causing the seed of godliness and purity in you to grow and bring about an increase, which will certainly be evident to all. Please, does



any other question touching this issue still bother you?

**Pat:** Oh! Yes. Can my indecent dressing possibly take me to **hell**?

**John:** Yes my dear sister. The indecent dressing of so many sisters can simply take them to hell since they exposed their God given body 'contours'. This was meant to be hid and revealed to their future husbands but instead, they allowed the devil to deceive them to use that beauty to cause a lot of men to lust in their hearts after them. Know of certain, man is moved by what he sees and that of woman is by touch. We know of the weakness of men when Christ said; "but I tell you that everyone who gazes at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Matthew 5:28 This tells us, when a lady is not properly covered, there is the probability she will cause a lot of men to fall in their hearts. You may give so many reasons for wearing indecent clothes, but so far as you cause a lot of men to lust after you, you are in danger of hell fire just as they. If when you help people to go to heaven you are rewarded, conversely when you also cause them to go to hell you will also be punished.

**Conclusion:** Since your indecent dressing can cause men to sin and go to hell, always ask yourself if what you are about to wear carries the potential of causing men to lust after you in their heart or not (by the help of the spirit and conscience)?

**Pat:** But brother John, isn't indecency relative?

**John:** Ok, to some **extent** yes. However, let's bear in mind that it's not what you think as my sister which matters, but how God views it. Does God see it to be good, acceptable and perfect in His sight? Why dress my sister to attract undue attention to yourself and not to reflect the purity and glory of God in your life? There is coming a day, God will judge every hidden motive of ours as stated in 1 Corinthians 4:5; "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each man will get his praise from God."

**Conclusion:** So sister Pat, to the Christian lady there is nothing like relativism when it

comes to indecent apparel. The question as to whether what you are wearing is good, acceptable and perfect when viewed with God's lens, Can be dissolved by pondering over the following scriptures. Proverbs 16:2 states that, "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but Yahweh weighs the motives." And that in Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12

**Pat:** From now on what actions should I take, touching the kind of dresses I wear?

**John:** The dress any lady wears speaks volumes of her whether she chooses to be willingly ignorant of it or not. For this reason we are commanded to abstain from all appearance of evil as 1 Thessalonians 15:

21-22 in principle, teaches; “Test all things, and hold firmly that which is good. Abstain from every form of evil.”

The kind of dress we wear has either a direct or indirect influence on our psychological world view. Dress code normally goes with functions and the kind of work one is engaged in. Why then do we want to wish away the truth that dresses we wear depict the sought of people we are, what we do, where we come from etc. A prostitute for example is known mostly by her appearance as portrayed in Proverbs 7:10; “Behold, there a woman met him with the attire of a prostitute, and with crafty intent.”

My beloved sister why not let your dressing also portray royalty as in line with 1 Peter 2:9 ; “But you are a chosen race, a royal

priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:"

In light of this scripture, you ought to set the pace for others to follow, but not to conform to the pattern of the world. Remember you claim you are the head and not the tail. As a matter of fact, the head determines where the rest of the body goes. Paul, in addressing believing women in his letter to Timothy with regards to godly conduct, had the following to say;

*"In the same way, that women also adorn themselves in decent clothing, with modesty and propriety; not just with braided hair, gold, pearls, or expensive clothing; but (which becomes women professing godliness)*

*with good works...but she will be saved through her childbearing, if they continue in faith, love, and sanctification with sobriety."*  
1Timothy 2:9-10, 15

This was not entirely different from the advice of the writer of 1 Peter;

*"Let your beauty be not just the outward adorning of braiding the hair, and of wearing jewels of gold, or of putting on fine clothing; but in the hidden person of the heart, in the incorruptible adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God very precious. For this is how the holy women before, who hoped in God also adorned themselves, being in subjection to their own husbands:" 1Peter 3:3-5*

**Conclusion:** I will not and cannot set a rule as to what you should wear, but to only

bring to your knowledge the effects of what you wear and the truth that, God is concerned about what you put on as a covering for your nakedness. So when you are about to wear any garment, please ask yourself if it is good, well-pleasing and perfect to His glory? My dear sister you should dress to attract people to God and not to yourself (don't desire to be an 'idol'). This will only be possible if you allow your faith to operate by love according to Romans 14:13, 16, 21;

*"Therefore let's not judge one another anymore, but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block in his brother's way, or an occasion for falling. . . . Then don't let your good be slandered, . . . It is good to not eat meat, drink wine, nor do anything by which your brother stumbles, is offended, or is made weak,"*



So, love does not seek its own but that of weaker brethren. What you do with the information you have just read or heard carries eternal significance. If your attitude towards it is negative, then this message will stand against you on the Day of Judgment. A reward however awaits us when our response is positive. God bless you as you live in obedience to the word of God. Heaven is real, Hell fire is real, and where you go is purely by choice. Amen.

# **ARE YOU PREPARED FOR CHRIST'S SECOND COMING?**

*Please note that...*

The first Adam disobeyed God and because of his disobedience sin entered the human race, resulting in the spiritual death and separation of man from God; "Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men, because all sinned.... So then as through one trespass, all men were condemned; even so through one act of righteousness, all men were justified to life." Romans 5:12-13, 18.

The last Adam (Jesus Christ) obeyed God in order to take away sin from the human

race; “But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8.

Your part of the arrangement is to receive the grace or free gift of God's salvation by faith (Romans 4:16-17). You must understand, faith without works is dead, so God expects you to obey and receive this free gift (but costly) salvation with your free will; “But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name: who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12-13.

The most important decision you have to make now is to be born again (John3:1-8). Being born again is to repent of your sins

and to submit yourself to be baptized by immersion (and not by sprinkling) as well as receive the Holy Spirit; "Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38.

The grace of God is not a license for you to sin, but rather to receive strength to live in obedience to God's word (Titus 2:11-14).

You therefore have to (as a matter of necessity), live a holy life and walk as Christ did, and not to live in hypocrisy; "However God's firm foundation stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are his, and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness." 2 Timothy 2:19. "Everyone who has this

hope set on him purifies himself, even as he is pure.” 1John 3:3.

If you walk in the light of the above scriptures and make 2 Peter 1:2-10 your guiding principle, you will never live a defeated Christian life, thereby ensuring you are found in Christ even at His glorious appearing.

I however caution that you beware of people who preach Another Gospel, Another Jesus and Another Spirit as in line with 2 Corinthians 11:1-4.

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IMPORTANT SIGN POSTS FOR BELIEVERS  
THE PARADOX OF MATURITY  
THE REALM OF DIVINITY, CONTRADICTING  
THE WORLD  
DEMYSTIFYING PARABLES AND SACRIFICE



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