



“Politeness” may silence leaders and fellow-Christians in the church, but God loves us too deeply to be silent. What does He say?

“Do not let your adornment be merely outward — arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel — rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves...” (1 Peter 3:3-5).

“...that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works” (1 Timothy 2:9).

“...whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:28).

“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 12:2).

The choice to wear clothing that will **create lust** in the eyes of those around us is wrong in itself; the **resulting lust** in the hearts of the beholders is sin on the part of the one who causes it as well as

the one who is lusting. Lust can literally **lead to immorality, infidelity, lies, abandoned children, broken homes...** When Satan gets a toe-hold, he will continue to add to the temptation until — far too often — he succeeds in **destroying the souls** involved.

You might want to know about these last two garments I photographed. No, they were not in the women’s section; they were hanging on the rack for two-year-olds. **Mothers, please don’t train up your little girls to dress like the world.** From the start, teach them modesty by the choices you make in **their** clothing.

Dear Christian sisters, please remember that **the first death was God’s taking the life of animals to make modest clothing for Adam and Eve after they realized their nakedness.** He *cares* what we wear! [A little observation: Besides their tragic decision to disobey God, their choice of clothing fabric — *fig leaves* — was quite an itchy one!]



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FIG LEAVES ARE BACK IN STYLE!

Betty Burton Choate

Summer is here! Gone are those ole bulky winter clothes and all those layers! The ultra freedom of summer clothes surrounds us again.

I couldn't quite bring myself to download photos from Clipart of scantily clad women. Instead, I took my camera to the local Walmart and photographed a few of their offerings. I was neither surprised nor disappointed in the excellent illustrations they provided.

This summer, women will go to the beach wearing these bikinis, or something skimpier.

Probably that same woman would never consider parading around on the beach wearing only a bra and thong-type underpants, but I ask, "What is the difference in the *amount of body* she would be revealing?" None! The only difference is in the *fabric* used to make the garments! It would be SCANDALOUS to go out in public dressed only in one's underwear — *wouldn't it?*



OK, leaving the beach scene of near-nudity, look at the offering for relaxed outings: the briefest of stretch pants, topped with a knit, spaghetti-strap shirt.

Another possibility is a one-piece stretch top that will barely cover the torso — breast down to upper thighs.

Oh, this blue print is better — it's a little longer, and at least it does have spaghetti straps!

Then there was the blue knit top, also with the spaghetti straps. Of course the degree of immodesty is in the choice of the wearer: will it be a top that is loose and exposes only the upper part of the body, or will it be three sizes too small so that it is stretched like a second skin?

Now here is a subdued choice: a black straight skirt. Should we wonder what folks will see when the wearer sits down or bends over?

And these are shorts for the hot-natured woman. The manufacturer invested very little in the fabric but, sadly, the price tag doesn't reflect that savings...



With the lowering of all standards of honesty, integrity, and modesty in the world, we know that the downhill spiral of morals for the general populace is likely to continue. There are reports that nudity is accepted in some public situations in Europe, as well as on TV. Since those countries seem to be the model we are following, we can accurately project what we will see on American streets in the near future.

But what the world is doing is not nearly as alarming to me as the transformation that is taking place in the Lord's church. Sometimes I am afraid to look up to see incoming attendees for worship because of what some of the women are wearing: short, tight skirts; spaghetti-strap dresses; see-through fabrics; low-cut tops that reveal cleavage...

Some among us could walk out of the church building and blend harmoniously with the women of the world! **Shame! Shame!** Are there no sermons or Bible class studies anymore on modest apparel for Christian women? Are there no elders, sincerely looking after the flock? Do the husbands/fathers of these women have no eyes? Does no one remember the connection between exposure of the physical body and the resulting lust in the hearts of the beholders?

