# Modesty

*Built from sermons from Kris Emerson and Steven Trammel and input from the Oak Ridge elders with heavy modifications but sometimes direct lifts.*

1. [slide] Topic – modesty
   * + - 1. [slide] Typical reaction on this subject

[slide] Perhaps preaching has been imbalanced

Feedback on topic (including Elders) – Don’t forget the men!

* + - * 1. [slide] Let’s draw some boxes…
      1. …before we get into the size of the box / justifying lines…

Modesty is a hard subject

Jesus didn’t shy away from **hard subjects** – “I am the bread of life” (John 6:28-69)

v60: This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?

v61: Do you take offense at this?

v66: After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

v67: Do you want to go away as well?

v68-69: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

Jesus didn’t shy away from **hard applications** – Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19:16-22)

v21-22: Jesus said to him, “‘If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’ When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

This subject, this slide, that draws lines, what are your emotions/feelings?

Please mentally capture it, perhaps write it down, text it to yourself

Be intellectually honest with yourself as you make this evaluation

* + - * 1. Though there can be value in such a sermon, this isn’t going to be a box/line drawing sermon
      1. Let me persuade you, if you have, to unplug your ears, stop reading something else in the Bible and listen for the next 90 minutes

1. [slide] does god care what we wear?
   1. There is shame in nakedness
      * + 1. [slide] Genesis 3:7-11  
             Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

Adam and Eve immediately made coverings and even with these coverings had shame

This shame realization comes naturally as kids grow older (Romans 2:15)

Culture can repress this shame or sear the conscience (1 Timothy 4:2)

Nudist colony

Beach/swimming attire

* + - * 1. [slide] Genesis 9:20-24  
           Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him,

Complicated (weird) passage

But we can learn that there is shame in nakedness

Something about Ham’s actions did not honor his father

Shem and Japheth honored their father by covering his nakedness

* + - * 1. [slide] Exodus 20:25-26; 28:42-43  
           If you make me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stones, for if you wield your tool on it you profane it. And you shall not go up by steps to my altar, that your nakedness be not exposed on it.’  
             
           You shall make for them linen undergarments to cover their naked flesh. They shall reach from the hips to the thighs; and they shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they go into the tent of meeting or when they come near the altar to minister in the Holy Place, lest they bear guilt and die.

God commanded underwear for the priests

To prevent accidental exposure of nakedness

Serious ramifications if they failed

* + 1. [slide] Application
       - 1. Test fit your clothes, move this way and that

Get a full-size mirror: sit in a chair look, bend over, and see what others could see

Is there a danger of exposure?

* + - * 1. God cares about covering nakedness.
    1. [slide] Old Testament Purpose
       - 1. Some may say the OT was destroyed

Now only the NT exists

If not rewritten, it is void

* + - * 1. This is immature, unhealthy understanding

Often used to ignore or disregard God’s attitude and desires

OT shows us the nature and character of God

* + - * 1. Old Testament was written for our learning (Romans 15:4) and the NT makes multiple applications showing what we should have learned from the OT

[slide] **God’s intent for marriage** – definition of marriage (Genesis 2:24) “…from the beginning…” (Matthew 19:3-12)

[slide] **God’s provision for the worker** – muzzling the ox (Deuteronomy 25:4) “…Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not certainly speak for our sake? ...” (1 Corinthians 9:9-10)

[slide] **The spirit of man is eternal** – I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 3:15) “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God… have you not read what was said to you by God… (Matthew 22:23-33)

* 1. [slide] Modesty is part of how we show our faith to the world
     + - 1. People experience Jesus when they experience you

Your attitude

Your speech

Your lifestyle

Your clothing

* + 1. Objection: clothing is superficial
       - 1. The world judges by outward appearances
         2. God judges by a higher standard than mere outward appearance
         3. [slide] Right, yet so wrong
         4. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (12-20) context is using body for sin and joining with a prostitute  
             “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”
         5. Your body is a vessel made by God (reclaimed by Christ), to be filled with the Holy Spirit
    2. [slide] Your body is a vessel
       - 1. [slide] 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7  
            For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control **his own body [vessel]** in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.
         2. [slide] 2 Corinthians 4:7-10  
            But we have this treasure (v.6, knowledge of God) in jars of clay (our body), to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that **the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies**.

The treasure is the knowledge of God (v.6) we hold in our jars of clay (body)

We are afflicted (in our body)

Jesus is manifested in our bodies!

* + 1. [slide] Our vessel (body) is to be filled with the Spirit
       - 1. [slide] Galatians 5:16, 22-23 (16-25)  
            “…walk by the Spirit…”  
            “…the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control…”  
            **16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17** For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **19** Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, **21** envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. **24** And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
         2. [slide] Ephesians 3:16 (16-19)   
            “…be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being…”  
            **16** that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
         3. [slide] Ephesians 5:18b (15-21)   
            “…be filled with the Spirit…”   
            **15** Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20** giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
    2. Conclusions
       - 1. Imagery: The spirit fills the vessel, the vessel is your body
         2. The Spirit in you cannot be separated from the body you live in
         3. Your body becomes the way the world can see Jesus, what is on your inside, your humility, reverence, respect, clothing is key part of that showing
         4. What if the vessel is vile, disgusting, dirty—a used bedpan?

Will the Spirit fill that vessel?

Will people who look at that vessel see Jesus?

Will people want anything to do with Jesus?

* + - * 1. Your body is the vessel used to pour forth the qualities of the Spirit into the lives of every single person you meet and know

[slide] Before you get concerned that your body is too ravaged, too marked, too dirty

[slide] 1 Corinthians 6:11 “And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God”

God has cleaned you and you are beautiful!

We have work to do to make sure the light of Christ is shining forth from our vessel! (Matthew 5:14-16)

1. Why is modesty hard?
   1. [slide] Modesty is a heart issue
      * + 1. Often, we focus on the external

“Wear this, not this” approach to modesty

There is validity to that method; however,

If you do not work on what is on the inside your outside will always struggle

Modesty, getting my clothes right, is about a whole lot more than clothing

* + - * 1. Our goal is to be holy as God is holy

You can cloth a naked man

but that does not make him holy

* + - * 1. We can each play the acting role of holy: dress, talk, and act one way, while our insides are another

But that act is superficial

We need to be honorable people, with reverent hearts, who are respectful to God

* + - * 1. Modesty is hard because cloths that meet someone else’s approval are too easy to put on while the heart is left untouched, it is left immodest and growing resentful
  1. We do not treat Modesty as part of our mission
     + - 1. Company mission statements

An all-encompassing focus of a company

If there isn’t a specific procedure or rule, is this action in alignment with the mission statement?

How can I further the company’s values and purpose? I’m just a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_...   
Do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in accord with the mission statement.

Your purpose as an employee is to help meet the mission statement

* + - 1. Let’s consider a couple Modesty passages in the full context of the mission (purpose)
    1. [slide] 1 Timothy 2: lead all people to Christ through professing Godliness
       - 1. [slide] 1 Timothy 2:9-10  
            “…likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.”

Many good points to be made, without the context, which we will likely make

But let’s put the passage in context and see if it helps make a stronger point related to modesty

* + - * 1. 1 Timothy 2:1-10 (really to end) is to **lead all people to Christ through professing Godliness**  
             
           **1** First of all, then, **I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people**, **2** for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. **3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires **all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth**. **5** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **6** **who gave himself as a ransom for all**, which is the testimony given at the proper time. **7** For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), **a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth**. **8** I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; **9** likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, **10** but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

(1-2): Our concern is beyond ourselves. We pray for everyone. We want to help everyone. Whatever this upcoming text is about, it’s bigger than just me.

(3-4): Praying for everyone is good because God wants to save ALL MEN. That means God wants every person you meet and know to learn about Truth.

(5-7): I go out, take my vessel, my body, my life, and I try to lead people to Jesus. I want them to know He died for them, and they should live by faith in Him.

8: MEN – Show your connection and reliance on God

Pray!

Do not solve problems as mere men, using man’s strength, perhaps fists to solve problems, instead

Use holy hands to Pray to God.

9-10 (to end): WOMEN – Profess Godliness

Your adornment. Your clothing. What you are focused on with your body and life. Your attitude, respect for authority, and embracing God given roles.

Your value is not in your looks, your clothes or jewelry

* + - * 1. God knows the difference between Men and Women

Men, struggle more **self-reliance** and anger and Paul is focusing on this tendency

Women, struggle more with defining **their value** in their looks which can be hindering their service to God

Does this passage allow Men to focus on perfect, full head of hair, Rolex watches, and designer, custom fit clothes?

Does this passage allow Women to be angry and quarrel?

* + - * 1. Modesty is hard sometimes because we focus on our **restrictions** rather than our freedoms.

This is a LIBERATING passage!

God DOES NOT CARE about fashion or your being in or out of style

Example of man wearing same clothes all the time at church

As young guy, what’s wrong with this guy

I was like I will never get stuck in a decade like this guy

Now I am that guy (dates on pants)

* + - * 1. If you only focus on your clothing, you will likely continue to struggle, focus on the **mission** – lead all people to Christ through professing Godliness

Is this shirt/logo/dress/shorts/etc. **professing Godliness**, bringing glory to God?

Or are my clothes **professing me**, my goals, my body, me, my, me, my…

* + - * 1. The vessel matters. How you adorn it and use it. And that is where modesty comes in.
    1. [slide] 1 Peter – Bring Glory to God
       - 1. [slide] 1 Peter 3:3-4  
            “[Wives] Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.”
         2. This letter is about **bringing glory to God**

1 Peter 1:3,13-16 – We want to be holy out of gratitude to a wonderful God.  
  
**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,  
**13** Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, **set your hope fully** on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15** but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, “**You shall be holy, for I am holy**.”

1 Peter 2:11-12 – All we do outwardly is about drawing others to Glorify God.  
  
**11** Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. **12** Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may **see your good deeds** and **glorify God** on the day of visitation.

1 Peter 4:7-11 – Sound and sober. Why? That God may be Glorified.  
  
**7** The end of all things is at hand; therefore be **self-controlled** and **sober-minded** for the sake of your prayers. **8** Above all, keep **loving** one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Show **hospitality** to one another without grumbling. **10** As each has received a gift, use it to **serve** one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who **speaks** oracles of God; whoever **serves**, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that **in everything God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:16 – Things may be tough, but we want to Glorify God.  
  
**16** Yet if anyone **suffers as a Christian**, let him not be ashamed, but **let him glorify God** in that name.

* + - * 1. Focus on what is imperishable versus the perishable, the permanent versus the fading
        2. Same application, do my clothes bring glory to God or to me?
  1. [slide] Modesty is PRINCIPLE taught
     + - 1. Earlier we discussed how some of the prescriptions of the OT were meant to be understood in a bigger context, to make broader application

This broader application is much harder to understand and grasp than

“Don’t muzzle the ox while its threshing the grain”

* + - * 1. Modesty is heart focused, there is many applicable passages on the subject, but few box checking passages

God could certainly have told us exactly how to dress, but

Just as Christ explained why he spoke in parables (Matthew 13:10-17) this method of setting expectations makes us work harder, we must want it—a right heart

* + - * 1. [slide] Ephesians 6:5-6  
           “Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, …”

Can’t I be a box checker

No! From the heart

* + - * 1. [slide] 2 Corinthians 9:7  
           “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Cheerful giver

But how much?

Buying something, how much do you think it is worth? – Hard right?

OT 10% tithe

“as he has decided in his heart”

* + - * 1. [slide] Luke 10:25-37 – The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Is this here so that all Christians should be sitting on side of road looking for victims of robbery left for dead?

No! It’s a principle taught.

We understand that

Principles: Showing Love, Compassion, and Selflessness (principles true under OT)

* + - * 1. [slide] Romans 14:14 – Conscience plays a role in being acceptable before God  
           “I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.”

Perhaps there is an article of clothing that is fine

But your conscience convicts you otherwise—choose something else, don’t wear it!

* + - * 1. Principle taught applications requires struggle

Yes, they are harder

Some may disagree with locations of line, fit (tight), transparency, etc.

But in all, does your struggle, your application, show you are devoted to God or devoted to fitting in with the world?

1. [slide] Applications / Conclusion
   * + - 1. Let’s consider some basic truths:

[slide] Modest, there is immodest

[slide] Costly attire, there is cheap attire

[slide] Clothes that profess godliness, there are clothes that profess worldliness

[slide] A way God wants you to dress, then there is a way He doesn’t want you to dress

* + - * 1. God is not fine with whatever
        2. Without instruction from God

We will use our own internal compass to make judgements

We would measure ourselves against standards that we set or society sets for us

We will be living by a standard of the world and

At our best we could obtain the prize of being just like the world

* + - * 1. With instruction from God, we can instead look and be like Jesus
        2. Did Jesus ever dress in such a way as to cause:

Attraction to his physical body? Lust?

It is true WOMEN can lust for or be enticed by MEN

Consider Potiphar’s wife (Genesis 39)

Consider Exodus 22:16 “And if a man entice a virgin that is not betrothed, and lie with her, …”

Do not miss the more obvious application of a woman enticing a man (AI images, ESPN, FOX News, etc.)

Bring glory to himself (apart from God)?

Isaiah 53:2 “…no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.”

I interpret this to mean his look was neither so grand nor so pitiful that we desire to see Him for his look

* + - * 1. [slide] Romans 12:1-2  
           “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

When you consider what Jesus did for us, we should be ready and willing to make whatever sacrifice required to be more like Jesus

How can I most honor God in what I am doing?

How can I selflessly serve others in what I’m doing?

If the questions we ask ourselves are:

“How much is too much? or

“What can I get away with?”

Then we’ve already lost the battle in our hearts.

* + - * 1. I asked you to capture your emotions at the beginning of the sermon, do they reveal a need to work in this area of your heart?
        2. I realize I have not given you any real lines or wear this, not this type of help

Is there anyone here whose vessel is filled with the Holy Spirit?

Can you humbly ask that person for advice/help and/or accept instructions when given?   
(Titus 2)

2024/04/07 Church w/ PowerPoint