

# The Christian and Personal Appearance

1 Tim. 2:9-10

## Introduction:

- A. One's personal appearance may have social, economic or moral implications. (cf. Matt 11:8; Jas. 2:3; Prov. 7:10).
  - 1. "What shall I wear?" or "How do I look?" may or may not be important.
  - 2. It depends on whether the thing implied by the clothing or looks is important.
- B. A Christian's personal appearance must take into consideration several N. T. principles:

## Discussion:

### I. It must Show Respect for the Word of God.

- A. The word governs a Christian's life – not fad, fashion, friends or family (Matt. 4:4)
- B. The word does not prohibit style, color, nor taste variety and change – within certain limits.
- C. The word should not be toyed with when it does set limits.
  - 1. "How long is long hair?" or "Who is say what is modest?" is unworthy of sincere Christian.
  - 2. These passage teach something, why not make best effort to obey them?

### II. It must Emphasize Spirituality and Reflect Godliness.

- A. It must not be "the thing" in one's life. ( 1 Pet. 3:3; cf. "Not, but.")
- B. Yet, it must reflect a godly character (1 Tim. 2:9,10).
  - 1. A character that is not immoral (cf. Prov. 7:10).
  - 2. A character that is not lazy and unconcerned.
  - 3. A character that is modest.
  - 4. A character with sense of shame and sobriety.
- C. Some of today's "looks" reflect attitudes that Christians should avoid.
  - 1. The "unisex" look in clothes and hair styles.
  - 2. The "hippie" look in clothes and hair styles.
  - 3. The "punk" look in clothes and hair styles.

### III. It must Reflect and Protect His Sense of Shame (v. 9)

- A. Since his fall, man has a sense of shame associated with nakedness (Gen. 3:7; 21).
  - 1. Sinless man did not need it (Gen. 2:25)
  - 2. Sinful man does need it. (cf. Rev. 3:18).
- B. God expects man to keep his sense of shame alive (Jer. 6:15).
- C. Men have often ignored their shame until it becomes deadened.

### IV. It must Respect Human Weakness in Others.

- A. Possible to sin by looking upon another to lust (Mt. 5:28, 29)
- B. Possible to appear so as to encourage such looking to lust (cf. Matt. 18:7,8).
- C. Possible to encourages lust with clothes that reveal too much – too brief, too tight, etc.

## Conclusion:

- A. "What shall I wear" or "How do I look" should concern Christians more than it does.
- B. One can look neat and stylish and still modest and godly if he/she sets his/her mind to it.