

# THE WORLD'S BIBLE #18

By Keith Greer

## MODEST APPAREL. Part 2

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians that " ... I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed." (2 Corinthians 12: 20-21)

As we do know from history, the Corinthians had a problem with worldliness, too, didn't they? Was Paul being a "narrow minded preacher" for trying to encourage them to leave their affection for worldly things behind?

Twenty-five years ago, our nation, as a whole, dressed much more modestly. Mini-skirts, halter tops, shorts, tight fitting jeans (for women and men), and clothing designed to draw attention to specific parts of the body were virtually unheard of and were frowned upon by people who were concerned about dressing modestly.

Now, however, even Christians and their children are wearing clothing that their parents would not have even considered. "Oh, but these are the styles today. All of the stores are selling these clothes." While we lived in Las Vegas, in the summer, we would hear "these clothes are so much cooler."

When men or women dress in a way to create "lust and desire" in someone other than their God-given mate, they promote "lasciviousness." "Lasciviousness" is defined as "inordinate or lewd urges." Also listed and it is one of the works of the flesh that Paul told the Galatians ... that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5: 19-21) Can we really say that when we dress in a way that will cause another person to sin that it is just "their problem and not mine". Paul told the Romans that " ... every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." (Romans 14: 12-13) We had better take seriously the responsibility of our example as Christians.

Give a careful study of the scriptures concerning the subjects of lust and immodesty. What will you find? The majority of teaching concerning DRESS is given to women. The majority of teaching on LUST is directed towards men. Why? Men are ten times more easily provoked to lustful thoughts by sight than a woman. Women have a great sway over men just by the way they dress or the lack of dress. Men must keep their minds pure, 1 Timothy 5:22. Yet, women can help men do this or encourage them to commit adultery in their hearts by the way they dress, Matthew 5:28.

I am not suggesting that we all have to go around wearing suits all of the time, but we do need to consider what is appropriate ("especially suitable or compatible"). We

especially need to examine our attitude in worship. Today, it is not uncommon to see a Christian "dressed to kill" to go to work, but dressed for worship like he or she is ready for a backyard cookout. We need to consider the influence we have on one another as we gather in the presence of our Lord. Let all of us dress to draw attention to our godly character – not the outward appearance! \*\*\*