

A New Clothing Line

by Bryan Gibson

Did you know that God was a fashion designer? It's true. "Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin and clothed them" (Genesis 3:21). Adam and Eve made their own outfits (Genesis 3:7), but their "coverings" didn't cover enough. Would it be safe to say that many of the "coverings" worn today have the same problem? God does care how we dress, and it's high time we realize that.

Putting stress on the inner adornment is the key to pleasing God. After all, that's the way He operates on us—from the inside out. "Do not let your adornment be merely outward...rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit" (1 Peter 3:3-4). "Be clothed with humility" (1 Peter 5:5). Here are some other virtues to add to our "clothing" line, all of which are taught in the New Testament: shamefastness, modesty, discretion, chastity, sobriety, self-control, reverence. Perhaps all these virtues could be summed up in this one admonition: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14). It's hard to imagine someone with the virtues of Jesus Christ wearing what so many are wearing today—bikinis, short shorts, short skirts, plunging necklines, tight clothing, see through outfits, etc. Just think about it—would you use words like modest and discreet to describe someone who wears these kinds of clothes? One clothed with the virtues of Christ is more interested in concealing than revealing.

While we're on the subject of virtues, let's not forget about love, and the influence it has on the clothes we wear. The last thing we should want to do is cause others to sin (Matthew 18:6), and clothing, or the lack thereof, can certainly do that. As surely as there is "enticing speech" (Proverbs 7:21), there is also enticing clothing, or to use another Biblical term, "lascivious" clothing (that which causes others to lust). When private parts of the body become public, what do we think will be the result? Here is a list of prohibited items in the *Autauga County School Dress Code*: "strapless dresses, tee tops, muscle shirts, shorts with wide legs, short tops and low-waist pants that expose midriff, clothing made of sheer fabric or spandex, clothing which is too short, too tight, or too revealing." The purpose of these prohibited items? To avoid "causing distraction of others." Hmm, wonder what that distraction might be?

Again, the key is inner adornment. One who is truly "chaste" (Titus 2:5) would not dream of wearing something enticing, at least not in the presence of anyone other than their spouse. Chaste is a "word used to describe behavior, **dress**, speech, etc., that exhibits morality or purity" (Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition). What do our clothes exhibit or reveal about us? Do they reveal the kind of character that is pleasing to God?

"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14), with all the accompanying virtues, and you will put on the right clothes. Summer, or as some like to call it, "bare season," is fast approaching. Make sure you don't bare too much.