



# CHRISTIAN DRESSING



By Pastor Isaac T. Adeola

Presented by

Victorious Army  
Revival Movement Church

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# **CHRISTIAN DRESSING**

**therefore glorify God in your body  
and in your spirit, which are God's."**

**— 1 Corinthians 6:20**

Author

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# **INTRODUCTION**

The subject of Christian dressing is becoming a no-go area in the body of Christ today. Ministers are so careful discussing it in order not to stir controversy or scare members away. But the pertinent questions are: is there no specific scriptural standard or guide for Christian dressing? Are Christians at liberty to wear just anything? These and other questions are the subject of this teaching. May the Holy Spirit grant us understanding in Jesus' name.

## **Scripture Focus:**

Genesis 3:10–21; Exodus 20:22–26; 1 Peter 3:1–5; Galatians 6:15–20;

1 Thessalonians 1:1–4; Matthew 18:6

# **STUDY OUTLINE**

1. Origin and Purpose of Dressing
2. Dressing in the Old Testament
3. Dressing in the New Testament
4. Some Christians' Excuses for Immodest Dressing

## **ORIGIN AND PURPOSE OF DRESSING**

The first man and woman had no need of physical dress, as they were clothed with the glory of God (Genesis 2:25). Clothing only became a necessity after the fall of man. God had to personally clothe them with coats of animal skins (Genesis 3:9–11, 21). This presupposes that the primary purpose of clothing is to cover man's nakedness — not, first of all, for fashion.

As a matter of fact, God frowns at exposing one's nakedness or dressing to allure or for an ulterior motive (Exodus 20:26; Genesis 9:20–27; Isaiah 3:16–22).

# **DRESSING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

There were general moral and ethical laws God gave to the Jews (God's chosen people); these included their patterns of dressing. While some of these dress codes were directed at the general populace (Deuteronomy 22:5, 11–12; Zephaniah 1:8), others were specific for the priests (Exodus 20:22–26; 28:2–4, 39, 43).

The laws of dressing became necessary in order to:

- Separate them from their idolatrous neighbours (2 Corinthians 6:14–18)
- Maintain decency
- Maintain sexual distinction between sexes (Deuteronomy 22:5)

# **DRESSING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

The New Testament is not restricted to the Jews. It is a gospel for different races with different cultures. So, Christians are not obligated to put on the Jews' robe-like dress. This does not, however, nullify God's moral principles or lessen His standard on dressing (2 Timothy 2:19).

Let us examine some scriptural facts about Christian dressing as portrayed in the New Testament:

- As it was in the beginning, dressing for a Christian is primarily to cover nakedness. Therefore, any mode of dressing that runs contrary to this purpose is anti-scripture (1 Thessalonians 4:2–5).
- The priority for New Testament believers is not external decoration of the body but life in the spirit (1 Peter 3:1–5; Galatians 5:16; Colossians 3:12). 'Dressing suggestively' in the name of fashion is a sign of spiritual emptiness — an attempt to cover up the departed glory like Adam and Eve.

- God is concerned with the body of a believer as much as He is with their spirit. The body of every believer is the temple of the Holy Ghost and should not be defiled (1 Corinthians 3:16–17; 6:15–20).
- Inasmuch as it is not bad to look good, Christian dressing should be guided by the principle of modesty (what is decent) and propriety (what is appropriate) — Philippians 4:5, 8; 1 Timothy 2:9.
- As much as possible, the gender distinction intended in Deuteronomy 22:5 must be maintained. Believers should judge their own dressing code by asking:
  - “Does it bring glory to God?”
  - “Would Jesus have dressed in this manner?” (1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31)
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- The New Testament Church is commanded to be distinct from the world (1 John 2:15–17; 2 Corinthians 6:14–18; Romans 12:2).
- Any mode of dressing that promotes the lifestyle, practice, or ideology of the world must be avoided.
- Believers are instructed to avoid any lifestyle that will make others stumble; this includes their mode of dressing (Romans 14:21; Matthew 18:6; 23:27–29).



Note: There are lifestyles that are acceptable in the kingdom. As kings and priests, therefore, believers are expected to be conformed to the glory of God, not to satisfy their fleshly desires. (Matthew 12:33–35; 1 John 2:15–17)

# **SOME CHRISTIANS' EXCUSES FOR IMMODEST DRESSING**

Having established God's disposition to dressing in both the Old and New Testament, we shall now discuss certain reasons some Christians give for dressing indecently, and attempt to justify or refute them with scriptures:

1. "We are no longer under the law; we have been called unto liberty. So, I can wear whatever I like."  
Answer: Romans 6:1–2; Galatians 5:13
2. "I dress the way I do to please, keep, or gain the attention of my husband; he loves it."  
Answer: Romans 14:21; Matthew 18:6; 5:27–29
3. "God is concerned with our spirit; our physical appearance does not matter."  
Answer: Matthew 12:33
4. "I dress that way so I can attract a husband."  
Answer: James 1:16–17

5. “My spirit is not against it; my conscience does not condemn me.”

Answer: 1 Timothy 4:1–2

6. “That is the style that is sold in the market.”

Answer: 1 John 2:15–17; 2 Corinthians 6:17

7. “That is my body shape.”

Answer: 1 Thessalonians 4:2–5


## **CONCLUSION**

There is no justification for indecency. God's standard stands sure (2 Timothy 2:19). If you indeed desire to reign with Him eternally in His kingdom, you must play the game according to His rules.

Beloved, do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2).

## **About the Author**

Pastor Isaac T. Adeola is a minister of the gospel with a passion for revival and sound doctrine. He serves as the Lead Pastor of Victorious Army Revival Movement, Lagos.

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