

Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



June 18, 2017

Women and Clothing

As the temperatures go up and the clothing comes off, it's appropriate to revisit what the Bible says about the clothing that women wear--and why it matters.

“And there a woman met him, with the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart” (Prov. 7:10).

“In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation” (1 Tim. 2:9).



In our politically correct climate, few topics generate more heated rhetoric than the subject of women's clothing. Any suggestion that women should be more discreet in their wardrobe choices is met with howls of outrage against the idea that women are “asking for” being treated as sex objects through the clothes they wear. At the same time, it cannot be denied that some women deliberately draw attention to their sexuality by dressing provocatively. “The attire of a harlot” is a timeless advertisement that never fails to attract customers.

The Bible addresses women's clothing, but in a general way that leaves some room for variation. This broad approach makes it difficult for some women—especially younger women—to know what is acceptable and what

isn't. How can a godly woman make wise decisions in her choice of clothing?

To answer that question, we first must address a fundamental difference in the natures of men and women. Unlike women, men are visually attracted to the beauty of the female form. The more of a woman's body that is exposed or accentuated, the more likely she is to attract the attention of men as a potential mating partner. This explains why Sports Illustrated has an annual swimsuit issue featuring scantily clad women; why men visit strip clubs that feature women performers; why sports teams use cheerleaders in skimpy uniforms (trust me, the guys looking on are not admiring the complex choreography); and why pornography is an overwhelmingly male pastime. Feminists can protest all they want, but men are hardwired to look at women as sex objects, and it takes a lot of internal discipline for a man to keep his gaze from becoming lustful. The Bible demands that discipline (Matt. 5:28-30; Prov. 6:25).

But women have a corresponding responsibility not to aggravate that

temptation. The Bible calls it “placing a stumbling block” before another (Rom. 14:13, 21). Whether by design or by carelessness, anyone who causes another to stumble in his weakness is subject to punishment (Matt. 18:6-7). Women must take that principle into account when choosing their wardrobes. Any clothing that draws attention to her bodily features—thereby attracting the lustful gaze of men—should be avoided.

So what are the specific types of clothing that women should avoid? I could give such a list, but it would likely not match the list that preachers used to give a hundred years ago, or in another culture today. A better test would be for a woman to pose this question to herself: Would this kind of clothing on another woman stir my jealousy if she were hanging around my husband or boyfriend? If you'd be uncomfortable with another woman wearing that clothing around your man, then you shouldn't wear it around other men.

A woman's clothing should send a clear signal to men: “I respect my sexuality; I expect you to respect it too.”

– David King



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