

# The Emperor's New Clothes On The Street Near You

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by David Diestelkamp

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expose.

I'm certainly aware of the attempts that are made to defend immodest clothing, but our thinking process as Christians needs to be re-examined. Are we teaching our children that "I like it" or "it's comfortable" or "it's the style" is the standard for Christians when it comes to modesty (or anything else for that matter)? Do articles like this cause a feeling to rise up in us that says, "You can't tell me how to..."? Do we make the excuse that we can't control others' thoughts or lust? And, isn't modesty about the heart?

While it is true that modesty involves our hearts, it will be reflected in our wardrobes. Christians are more than just their bodies, just their desires, and just the styles of their culture. We are reflections of Jesus Christ: *"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son..."* (Rom. 8:29). Our bodies, and what we do with them (including how we clothe them) are to reflect Jesus, not the world. Our thoughts and desires (which are also shown in our clothing) are to reflect that we are thinking like Jesus, not the world. We have to ask whether we can participate in the styles of our culture and still reflect Jesus. This can be difficult because we are immersed in our culture, and its influence on us is strong. This is why we have to be immersed in our Lord Jesus Christ and work to allow His influence over us to be strongest.

I am **not** saying that leggings under modest clothing are wrong. I **am** saying that wearing paper-thin spandex doesn't make someone modest. I don't hear people gasping and condemning this virtual nudity. I know that's not acceptable to do in our culture today. So, they parade themselves about like the emperor — while everyone is afraid to say something — but are still just as (virtually) naked.

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## 1 Timothy 2:9-10

by Wayne Goff

*"In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in **modest** apparel, with **propriety** and **moderation**, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works."*

**Modest** (*kosmios*): "orderly, well-arranged, decent, modest (akin to cosmos, in its primary sense as harmonious arrangement, adornment), is used in 1 Tim. 2:9 of the apparel with which Christian women are to adorn themselves" [*Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*]. "The well-ordering is not of dress and demeanor only, but of the inner life; uttering indeed and expressing itself in the outward conduct" [*Trench's Synonyms of the New Testament*, p. 346].

**Propriety** (*aidōs*): "in the sense of shame, modesty: 1 Tim. 2:9..." [*Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*]. "...In it is involved an innate moral repugnance to the doing of the dishonorable act..." [*Trench*].

**Moderation** (*sōphrosunē*): "1. reasonableness, rationality, mental soundness. ... 2. Good judgment, moderation, self-control" [*Arndt & Gingrich, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*].

Briefly summed up, the Christian woman dresses herself in a way that reflects her modest disposition, sense of decency, and mental soundness. She draws attention to herself **not** with *immodest clothing* but with *good works* that glorify God above self. This will attract the right kind of young suitors!

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