

Question: What does the Bible say about... Modesty

Fashion is a big part of any Christian teen's life. Yet, just as in every other part of our lives, discernment is important. Many fashion magazines promote low cut blouses and dresses alongside revealing skirts and shorts. While many Christian teens want to be fashionable, they also want to be modest. So, what advice does the Bible offer about modesty and how can it be applied to today's fashion?

Answer:

Why Should Christian Teens Be Modest?

As a Christian your behavior sets the tone for how others see you and your faith. Being modest in your appearance is just as great a witness to those around you as your words. One issue many non-Christians have with believers is that they tend to be hypocritical. If you are preaching purity and modesty to others while wearing revealing clothes you may be seen as a hypocrite. By being modest you allow people to see your inner faith rather than your outer appearance.

1 Peter 2:12 - "Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world."

How Can I Be Modest and Fashionable?

Discernment is always necessary when shopping for clothes. One way to discern if an outfit is modest is to ask yourself why you are buying it. Is it something you like or is it designed to draw attention to yourself? Are you buying the outfit to attract the opposite sex? What type of attention are you seeking?

Remember, it is not Christian to tempt others through your dress, so if it is something revealing or you find that people are getting the wrong impression through your clothing then it may be good to evaluate that piece with a discerning heart. There is plenty of great clothing available for Christian teens that is both modest and fashionable. It is not a sin to like nice clothes, but it is a sin when that desire for fashion becomes more important than your faith.

1 Timothy 2:9 - "And I want women to be modest in their appearance. They should wear decent and appropriate clothing and not draw attention to themselves by the way they fix their hair or by wearing gold or pearls or expensive clothes." (NLT)

1 Peter 3:3-4 - "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

This does not mean that girls cannot dress attractively, fix their hair or wear jewelry. What it does mean is that it should not be your priority. Some girls are very beautiful on the outside, but ugly on the inside. And have you ever met a girl who wasn't the most awesome looking girl, but the more you got to know her the more beautiful she was? It is because the beauty of her personality started to shine through.

Another thing to think about is the type of fashions that you wear. It is terrible that in these times, non-white boys think that it is their right to chase after white girls. Many white girls have fallen in to the pressure to be cool (at least they think it is) and decide to start dating non-white boys. There are plenty of white girls on MTV or other television shows or web shows that act like it's the sweetest thing to have a black guy on her arm. It's not. It is racial suicide. A girl who does this is a very selfish creature and doesn't care about the world she lives in. Thank goodness that you are not that type of girl.

Still, you need to consider how you dress. Many hip hop fashions or excessively sexual outfits give the message (whether you intend to or not) that you are up for attention from non-white guys. When white young people start copying non-white cultural habits those non-whites think you want them.

Now, there is often nothing that you can do to stop them from looking at you. You did not create the problem, you are just having to live with it. No one thinks you have to wear dresses down to your ankles, cover your head and face, and stay inside all the time. But please do be careful that you aren't sending the wrong signal. Your life could depend on it. White girls are easy prey for non-white guys and sadly most adults don't get it or don't care. But that is part of our mission in The Knights - to let people know that they should care. They must care. What kind of a barbarian wouldn't care? We do - so again, please think about it when you dress and think about the places you go. Someone may be watching you. We aren't trying to totally scare you - but its better to be safe than sorry. So, my white sister, always be on guard.