

## MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLOTHING

In this brief teaching I will share how important the clothing we wear is to our identity as either male or female. I will base the teaching on 1Pet. 3:3-4, but there are many verses that apply to the subject of clothing and identification.

I believe it all comes down to IDENTITY, being able to identify the people around you at all times so you can appraise all situations you may be part of. Men and women should be treated differently simply because they are different. This is not what many societies teach, but it is reality, just plain old common sense. Let's have a look at a few of the verses I am making reference to.

**1Pet. 3:3-4** *Your beauty should not consist in externals such as fancy hairstyles, gold jewelry or what you wear; 4 rather, let it be the inner character of your heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit. In Adonai's sight this is of great value".* In these verses Paul is talking about a torah command about men attiring themselves so they appear to be men. Same for women.



**Deut. 22:5** *"A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to Adonai your Elohim.*

**Why was it so important to distinguish, especially from a distance whether the person meeting you was a male or a female?**

One of the traditional ways of determining whether it was still daylight or evening was if one could distinguish between two people whether they were male or female at 100 yards. In those days if you walked up from behind a person and then spoke to them as you would a man, and it was a woman, it was very offensive. It was always supposed to be blatantly obvious who was a man and who was a woman because of their outward appearance, whether you were seeing them from the front or behind. The dominant thing that determined whether a person was a male or a female was the head covering, lack of head covering, or the pattern or color of ones outer apparel. Men never covered their heads in public, only some women did that. Only women draped themselves in a scarf for example. When you saw someone draped with a scarf you treated them or approached them as if they were a women.

When we think about clothing and general attire in biblical times, there are factors that need to be considered. These factors can be defined as tradition, customs, or etiquette. Whatever you define them as, they are important now, and they were very important back then.

Instructions about clothing and many other things in the torah, are sometimes specific to a certain time, location, or era. They are often time specific. Some things that were necessary and done in a specific manner in biblical times no longer need to be done in the same manner today. Take for example women's sanitary napkins. There are instructions in torah in regards to women's menstrual periods that certainly made sense back then, but because of advancements in sanitary fabrics today, these statutes simply

no longer apply. Because of advancements in various ways and means, technologies, somethings are no longer as black and white as they used to be. Some things are simply not necessary to do, or to do in the same manner as in biblical times, because of our lifestyles today. Because of fabrics, chemicals, materials, and the means of processing these materials today the instructions of old in many cases are simply obsolete. This is where wisdom (common sense, logic), comes in, so we must be very careful how we interpret what appears to be a gray area. Let's face it, wisdom, common sense, truth, etiquette, and logic are a rare commodity in this age.

Another example of appropriate differences between ancient times and today is the ability for women to wear pants when doing certain jobs. In years gone by it was very difficult for a woman to properly do certain jobs, daily routines, etc. because of the clothing they had available to them. Now a woman can wear a certain shirt or pants and are able to do a much better job because of these new fabrics and the technology to make these things more comfortable. That doesn't mean that a women should wear tight jeans, blouses, and dresses in public like many do today, but it does make it possible for them to dress appropriately for the job at hand.

In those days there were no street lights, porch lights on homes, business lights and signs, etc. and most areas in public were dark and dreary looking areas. Today we have head-lights lighting up areas where people move about out in the open. It is easy to identify whether a person is male or female in most cases other than those wearing hoodies and other clothing designed to keep their identity hidden.

Cross-dressing as we see so much of today, is an abomination to Yah. We have men dressing like women and vice versa because of the latest fashion or so-called trend. Everywhere you look we have males (not men) with horrific ugly unkempt, unclean beards, moustaches, goatees, long hair, and freaky haircuts, trying desperately to fit in with society. They are so desperate to have people notice them, they will do almost anything. This usually stems from rejection and rebellion. They can't get anyones attention with their deeds, words, and wisdom, so they do whatever they have to in order to get noticed. We even have many of these people that claim to be born again Believers in Yeshua doing so. Some people will make themselves look like fools in order to fit in with the latest trends. This is the kind of thing Sha'ul was hinting at, even though it didn't exist at that time.

In some religious groups we have men looking like moron's by wearing attire that is absurd, ugly, and even comical. If you have ever seen the way the religious clans dress in public in New York city or Las Angelos, you would understand what some desperate people will do to get attention. Then they turn around and claim they are hated because of their attire, especially the Jewish Orthodox sects. They are proudly displaying through their attire, what their particular sect is, without realizing they are prideful. They have a problem with their pride. This is simply a case of not using common sense.



**In the following verses we see Sha'ul commenting on the attire of women when they pray in public and in the synagogue.**

**1Tim. 2:9-10** *Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments; 10 but rather by means of good works, as befits women making a claim to godliness". (NAS)*

**1Tim. 2:9-10** *Likewise, the women, when they pray, should be dressed modestly and sensibly in respectable attire, not with elaborate hairstyles and gold jewelry, or pearls, or expensive clothes. 10 Rather, they should adorn themselves with what is appropriate for women who claim to be worshipping Adonai, namely, good deeds. (CJB)*

Notice the verse from the CJB says specifically "when they pray", whereas the NAS version does not include those words.

**1Cor. 11:4-10** *Every man who has something on his head while praying or prophesying, disgraces his head. 5 But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying, disgraces her head; for she is one and the same with her whose head is shaved. 6 For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head. 7 For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of Adonai; but the woman is the glory of man. 8 For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; 9 for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake. 10 Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels."*

Sha'ul is talking about obvious male or female identity during fellowship and festivals. Men and women should be distinct from each other so that from a distance all others in the synagogue could identify exactly who is speaking or prophesying, whether it be a woman or a man. Women were to have a veil over their head during synagogue and their long hair would make them quickly identifiable. In that manner it would be very obvious to all assembled as to whether a man or woman was praying out loud or prophesying.

Paul is teaching that men should not wear head coverings and women should not wear masculine type head coverings during assembly. The simple idea was that there should never be any confusion about whether or not a person, a shadow, an image under poor lighting conditions, or otherwise, was a male or a female. He was saying let men look like men and let women look like women.

Priests sometimes had head coverings, mantles, but they were very distinct and obvious apparel of the Priesthood that everyone was familiar with. Paul was not focussing on head coverings, he was focusing on just men and women looking distinctly different with their apparel.

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