



*Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.
~ 1 Timothy 2:9-10*

Introduction:

We must begin with a willingness to submit to God's plan for women.

We must be willing to examine ourselves to see if we are more influenced by our culture than God's Word.

And Mary [_____] said, "Behold, the bondslave of the LORD; may it be done to me according to your word . . ." (Luke 1:38).

I. Discretion

A. What Webster says:

Having or showing discernment or good judgment in _____ and especially in _____. Unpretentious: free from _____ or affectation. The ability to make responsible decisions.

B. What the Scripture says:

1. *Taste/Judgment:*

Understanding what is appropriate . . .

- a. God values _____ more than beauty (Proverbs 11:22).
- b. A discreet person can see herself as she _____ is (Proverbs 26:16).

2. *Prudence/Insight:*

Making choices God would make . . .

- a. Discretion makes a person slow to _____ (Proverbs 19:11).
- b. A discreet person has insight for the _____ God gives her (II Chronicles 2:12).
- c. _____ gives discretion. We can pray for it! (I Chronicles 22:11, 12).

3. *Wisdom/Understanding/Purpose/Counsel:*
Wisdom and discretion are very close friends!
- a. Discretion will _____ you
(Proverbs 2:11).
 - b. Discretion will keep you from the _____
kind of people (Proverbs 5:2).
 - c. Want more of it? Read _____
_____!
 - d. _____ and discretion (Proverbs
3:21).
 - e. _____ and discretion, hand in
hand (Proverbs 5:2; Proverbs 8:12)
 - f. Yields godly _____ to stressful
situations (Daniel 2:14).
4. *Soundness of mind/Self-control:*
*“Inner self-government that restrains
passions.” ~ Mark Minnick*
- a. Discretion helps us make right decisions
about _____ (1 Timothy 2:9)
 - b. Discretion enables us to engage in
proper _____ for godly
women (1 Timothy 2:10).



Portrait of a Discreet Woman

She understands what is appropriate behavior and speech. She is not self-deceived, but knows her own weaknesses and strengths. She saturates herself in the Word of God and prays for wisdom and discretion so that she will be able to discern the choices God would make.

She has insight for her tasks and is protected from harmful situations and people by wisdom.

In stressful situations, she responds calmly and full of faith.

Her passions are restrained by Christ-empowered self-control.



Handling Life's Challenges Discreetly



II. Modesty: A Discreet Woman's Dress

I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

~ 1 Timothy 2:9, 10

A. New Testament Definition: Shamefacedness

1. "A sense of _____"
(*Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon*)
2. "... Sense of honor which hinders one from doing an unworthy act . . . which _____ from overpassing the limits of womanly reserve and _____, as well as from the dishonor which would justly attach thereto."
(R.C. Trench, *Synonyms of the NT*, p.67)

B. Scripturally Informed Definition

"Modesty in dress is the application of an appropriate _____ as one of the considerations that governs our choices of clothing."

~ Mark Minnick

C. Cultivating Modesty

. . . do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is . . .

~ Romans 12:2

1. Avoid _____ to immodesty
 - a. Media: magazines, TV, movies
 - b. Markets: malls, online
 - c. Making comparisons to others

Overexposure to Vanity Fair and underexposure to God's Word will wear away your feminine reserve.

2. Be lovely, but not alluring.
 - a. Beauty is not _____ in scripture.
 - 1) God is the _____ of beauty
 - 2) We are Christ's _____!
(2 Corinthians 5:20)
 - 3) Keep it _____: (1 Timothy 2:9)
"well-arranged" (Thayer's),
"respectable" (ESV), "orderly and appropriate" (Minnick)
 - b. _____ men with your beauty **is** condemned.
 - 1) Tightness entices
 - 2) A low neckline entices
 - 3) Partial exposure entices
 - 4) Sensual body language entices

It should cause us to blush with shame to think that we have ever, by our dress or manner, tempted a man to have lustful thoughts!

When in doubt, DON'T WEAR IT!!

Handling Special Circumstances Modestly

“Within the Christian community, immodesty regularly causes others (especially brothers) to stumble . . .

Some young Christians simply refuse to face the problem and instead conform to provocative styles.

Others work it through and dress modestly without compromise. And still others react to the pressure by dressing down in unbecoming lumberjack style rather than thinking through what is feminine and unprovocative.”

~ R. Kent Hughes

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.

~ Philippians 1:9, 10

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