

V. HOW SHOULD A CHRISTIAN REACT WHEN HE IS SWAYED TO ADOPT A FAD OR A FASHION?

when we're swayed to adopt a fad or a fashion...

A. WE SHOULD, FIRST OF ALL, COMPARE IT TO THE STANDARDS WHICH THE WORD OF GOD PRESENTS FOR US

1. The Word of God sets a standard of modesty for the Lord's people (Ex. 20:26; Ex. 28:42; I Tim. 2:9,10). To maintain a standard of modesty we should ask: does this call attention to the outer person or the inner person? Will this cause others who see me to sin through lust? It should be noted that nakedness is associated with demonic activity in the Bible (Mk. 5; Acts 19:16).
2. The Word of God says our bodies are temples for the Lord's service (I Cor. 6:13-20). This means they are not to be used as instruments for lust and fornication. Harlots and whoremongers use their bodies in this manner. They wear sensual attire to attract attention to their bodies and appeal to sexual passions.
3. The Word of God forbids God's people from marking their bodies (Lev. 19:28). This means tattoos and body piercings are in disobedience to the Word of God. Author Robert Scutt has written several good books and articles dealing with this subject.
4. The Word of God exhorts us not to wear things which would confuse the sexes (Dt. 22:5). The Bible says a man ought to look like a man and a woman ought to look like a woman. Notice what the Word of God says in I Cor. 11:14, 15. And notice how this standard will be violated in future demonic activity (Rev. 9:7,8). We should ask, "does this fad or fashion make me look like a member of the opposite sex?"
5. The Word of God does not set a standard as some have erroneously propagated.
 - a. Dresses for women and pants for men are American standards and not Biblical standards. Historically, oriental attire has consisted of robe-type garments. In that culture men wore what would be more similar today to a dress than a pair of pants.
 - b. Notice also that the dress of different countries and cultures are different from American standards of dress. Take for example the men of Scotland, their kilts might be similar to women's dresses, by American standards, but they differ from the Scottish fashions that women wear.
 - c. Some have legalistically propagated that if women wear anything but dresses they are wearing what pertains to a man and it is condemned by the Bible in Deut. 22:5. But just as the oriental garments were similar but different so do women and men's attire differ in our day in different cultures.

- d. There's a difference in men and women's attire. There's a difference in a woman's blouse and a man's shirt. There's also a difference between a man's pants and a woman's slacks.

The question arises then why do some churches insist on a dress code of "dresses only" for women when this is an American standard and not a Biblical standard? The answer is two-fold.

- (1) First of all, Biblical standards call for modesty. Applying this standard a woman could just as well wear a dress and still be immodest revealing too much at the "top" or the "bottom" or just too tight "all over." Any tight attire which would call attention to the body's shape could be considered immodest. The same thing could be true of a man's pants. Meeting a Biblical standard of modesty is difficult when the world's fashions are designed to be attracting, revealing and sensual. Because of this fact slacks on woman are often-times too tight, too revealing, and too sensual, to say the least, and therefore would not meet a Biblical standard of modesty.
- (2) Secondly, because of the problem of meeting a Biblical standard of modesty in an immodest world, many churches have adopted a dress code policy and asked its members to voluntarily comply for testimony sake. The issue of dress is controversial and it has become a judgmental and divisive subject. But one should understand the key issue ought to center on modesty. I have seen immodest dresses on women who wouldn't dare put on a pair of women's slacks. Assuredly, they have altogether missed the point of what is Biblical!

B. WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE THE ORIGIN AND BACKGROUND OF THE THING IN QUESTION

1. An investigation of some of the fads and fashions today can be traced back to the rock culture with its drugs and demoralizing music. Personalities like Brittany Spears have led a generation of young gals to mimic their sensual attire and show their belly buttons to the world.
2. An investigation in some fads can be traced back to heathen practices of peoples in Biblical times (I Kings 18:28; Mk. 5:5).
3. Some fads can be traced back to the heathen practices of uncivilized people before they were civilized and enlightened by the gospel and Biblical teachings regarding modesty, marriage, and proper Christian conduct.

Someone has said, "people will either be led by God to serve Him in holiness or led by the devil to serve him in debauchery."

C. WE SHOULD ASK HOW WILL THE THING IN QUESTION AFFECT OUR TESTIMONY FOR THE LORD

1. Some fads and fashions send a distinct message and it's not a message a Christian should convey. Tattoos of Nazi swastika's, profanity, and nude pictures and the like are examples. Another example can be seen in the attire of a couple I saw recently. Both the boy and the girl had on big belts adorned with bright brass buttons and chains attached. And around the girl's neck was a big black leather collar with a heavy chain fastened to the boy's belt.
2. Some fads and fashions are immodest, some are profane, some are sensual and suggestive, some are no doubt ridiculous, but all of this kind are discrediting, disqualifying, and prevent a Christian from presenting a good testimony for the Lord.

D. WE SHOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER OF IDENTIFICATION AND HOW IT WILL CLASSIFY US BEFORE OTHERS

1. Some fads and fashions identify individuals with unenlightened heathens of the world.
2. Some fads and fashions identify persons with the rebellious rock culture and those involved in drugs, illicit sex and demoralizing music.
3. Some fads and fashions identify persons with those involved in immoral practices such as prostitutes and so-called "party animals."

Let me say, a Christian ought to adorn himself or herself with things that identify them with a converted company of the Lord, whose lives now demonstrate holiness, righteousness, self-control, cleanliness and conduct which honors the Lord.

E. WE SHOULD REFUSE TO COMPLY WITH THINGS THAT WOULD HURT US SPIRITUALLY

1. It will hurt us spiritually if the fad or fashion we adopt identifies us with groups who are immoral and ungodly.
2. It will hurt us spiritually if the thing in question hinders our testimony or ability to witness to others in any way.

We as Christians are called upon to live a different kind of lifestyle from others in the world and to maintain a good testimony (I Cor. 9:27; II Cor. 6:16,17; Eph. 4:17-20; I pet. 4:1-6).