

How To Adorn Yourself Part 1

Teaching Against Makeup, Painting and Perfumes

“1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.” (1 Peter 3:1-6 KJV)

After Adam sinned, Eve who tempted Him was put under his leadership, and this situation remained even today. *“16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” (Genesis 3:16 KJV)* Therefore, in the world today, woman is looking for her independence from man, all in the name of feminism and also looking to prove her equality with man.

But if we go to the Word of God we can see that God made man and woman one. *“28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28 KJV)* Paul also stated the same importance of both man and woman: *“8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. 9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. 10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. 11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. 12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.” (1 Corinthians 11:8-12 KJV)*

Therefore, if a woman goes to the Word of God, she will find her place preserved and protected. Apostle Peter in *1 Peter 3:1-6*, speaks about women who are in struggle with their non-believing husbands. The struggle is inside the family and not between men and women in the society. Peter instructed the women to behave with their husbands as Christ behaved on the cross. Peter called their attention to the fact that men will observe and notice the following things:

1. **Speaking without Words (Behavior):** *“that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives.” (1 Peter 3:1 KJV)*
Attitude and behavior of women is the first silent language that men will look for.
2. **Chaste conversation:** *“2 While they behold your chaste conversation.” (1 Peter 3:2 KJV)* The gentle and the polite way women speak will draw the attention of God and people and make them win their favor.

3. **Fear of God:** *“coupled with fear.” (1 Peter 3:2 KJV)* To be a person who fears God is an asset and a credit to women.
4. **Not using outward adorning:** *“3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel.” (1 Peter 3:3 KJV)* To receive favor from God and from man, women need to avoid using outward adornment (decoration, beautification, ornamentation, prettification, gilding, frill, trimming, enhancement). Using adornment and beautification is cheating and a dishonest way to win favor. A woman who uses make up to beautify herself to get favor is actually a briber! I am not against using medical lotion to treat skin condition or dryness, but to use enticing colors and smell to attract others is unjust and unfair. Peter told the women of his time not to plait or braid their hair because they had used those styles to attract men. He also did not recommend gold jewelry or costly apparel for beautification. Nowadays, there are other styles that women may use to attract men. Then that particular style we should condemn. If Apostle Peter would be writing the same passage today, he would reach verse 3 and continue to write *“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning”*, and list down all the designer wears and branded products that are invading the market today.

Notes: Some styles women use today to manage their hair so that their daily work and movement is easier or convenient to them, is totally acceptable. Therefore, for this reason we should not condemn them.

5. **Using the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit:** *“4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” (1 Peter 3:4 KJV)* Women are to use the inner man's beauty, the spirit that is in connection with the Holy Spirit, to manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Using excessive makeup and alike are considered corruptible things. Manifesting the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives is of great worth in the sight of God and will grant us more favor.
6. **Trusting in God:** *“5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands.” (1 Peter 3:5 KJV)* * The holy women of the olden times adorned themselves by being subject to their husbands; they expressed their trust in God and exhibited their gentle and meek spirit to attract their husbands to them and to draw them near to God. That is also how they showed their full trust in God. A woman who does God's will put on the dress of humility to gain the favor of God and man. * The church of God is the wife of Jesus and when we abide with God's will we are in subjection to our Husband, Jesus Christ, and that is more pleasing in the sight of God.
7. **Behave like daughters of Sarah:** *“6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.” (1 Peter 3:6 KJV)* Sarah is a good example for women to follow, to obey God's command and follow their Godly husbands. Sarah got rewarded with Isaac even though she was past the age of child birth, and women who follow her example, will also see miracles. When we as a church put ourselves in subjection to

God's will, then He will certainly reward us with His precious promises. We do need to trust God fully and in this way we escape from worries and fear.

Going back to women who smear makeup and apply perfumes to impress others, the following is the message of a Sister to the listener:

'Instead of spending time asking what color of eye shadow will match my outfit today or what shade of lipstick will I use for this or is my blush too shiny or did they notice my new perfume, ladies, isn't it wonderful to use this time and effort in pleasing God? How? By reading and meditating on His Word, by sharing the Gospel to your family, friends and even co-workers, by focusing on the ministry our Lord has given you.'

'We live in a world where make up is highly appreciated, but girl! you don't need it. As stated in the scripture above, let us not concentrate on the outward; instead, let us pay heed to beautifying the inner man, which is not corruptible. A beauty that is lasting is what pleases God.'

'To wash our bodies and to use things that are beneficial is acceptable. By using expensive perfume and painting our faces, we simply attract people around us and at the same time project our low self-esteem and our inability to realize who we are in Christ. It is true that a lot of girls are indeed more conscious about how they smell rather than on how effective they are as the salt and light in this world.'

"13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:13-16 KJV) Jesus said, *"Let your light so shine before men." (Matthew 5:16 KJV)* Our lives should reflect the light of Jesus and draw people close to God rather than allow our make-up draw people close to us.

"In our work field, (reports, presentations, meetings, meet-ups etc.) many spend hours on their appearance rather than on the content of their report. But regardless of how beautiful you are in front of your boss or clients, they will praise you or judge you based on your work alone. Do not trust your beauty or on how you paint yourself. Trust God; your focus is to deliver the works of your hands victoriously so that you can be a good example of how to be a recipient of God's favor in your job."

"30 And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window. 31 And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? 32 And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. 33 And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot. 34 And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king's daughter. 35 And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. 36 Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is

the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: 37 And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel." (2 Kings 9:30-37 KJV) Jezebel, the daughter of the King of Zidon, had married King Ahab and through her Baal worship was introduced in Israel. She is the first woman mentioned in the Bible who had painted her face. I am not saying that she is the pioneer, but I am mentioning her reaction to the events of life that she was passing through. Her husband was dead in battle and her son, King Joram, was just killed by Jehu, and now Jehu was moving towards her to meet her: *"30 And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window." (2 Kings 9:30 KJV)* Now how did she need to respond to the event? Instead of repenting and humbling herself before God, she painted her face and went out to meet Jehu in a defiant way, despising the judgment of God. *"31 And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, "Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?" (2 Kings 9:31 KJV)* She wanted to remind him about Zimri who had killed his master in order to become a king but he did not succeed and was killed. She wanted to frighten Jehu by telling him that his destiny would be the same, but she forgot to remember all her sins and wrong doings against God and against His people. God was sending His judgment against her but she did not consider repenting. Therefore Jehu executed the judgment of God against her as we read. Nowadays, the life of the Christian people and the church is the same; they will face the struggles of life and the coming judgment of God hiding behind masks and painted faces adorning themselves with empty smiles to cover up sin and the gloominess of heart; their refusal of the truth and their pride hinder them from true repentance, and from opening up their lives to God in total surrender.

Sadly speaking, the Israelites followed the bad example of Jezebel and did the same thing in their lives to face their problems and the challenges of lives. *"40 And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments." (Ezekiel 23:40 KJV)* Now the Christians are doing the same when faced with the challenges of life; instead of repentance they seek the worldly approach to solve their problems. They make themselves beautiful by putting make up to attract others for their favor; they make friends with influential people of the world and literally sell themselves to win favor. This will yield no lasting profit. *"And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life." (Jeremiah 4:30 KJV)*

The situation of Jezebel and how she lived her life is demonstrated further in the New Testament, in the book of Revelation through the Words of Jesus to the church in Thyatira: *"20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. 22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works." (Revelation 2:20-23 KJV)* The Christian church today is not willing to face the struggles of life by dealing with sin and to take measures to bring the people to the point of

repentance and into holy living. Instead, the church herself is faced with spiritual poverty and God's displeasure as a result of their callous ways and indulgence in worldly practices of pleasure and celebrations: Valentine, Halloween, All Saints Day, Father Day, Mother Day, Friendship Day, and the rest of the days to come, and coloring these celebrations, activities and events with performances in worship accompanied by light and sound effects. The performers, the so called worship leaders, try to impress the crowd with heavy make-up, eccentric hairstyles, tattoos, piercings and revealing clothes in order to camouflage their failure to be a chosen generation, and their lack of repentance, in the same manner as Jezebel when she faced Jehu. **With such kind of pride and lack of repentance, it is no surprise why churches today face a lot of struggles in the form of poverty, sicknesses, broken families, divorce, second marriage, gay marriage, etc. and are in dire straits.**

This message is not only for women, but as well as for men and for everyone, for many men today are using make up to beautify themselves out of narcissism, that they will cover certain moles, acne and creases by using make up, gold and jewels, or expensive watches, mobiles, cars, etc., to attract others toward them. Those men they need to repent of all such, the same as we instructed women in this regard. As well as many men and women are doing plastic surgery and spend much finances in order to beautify themselves with fuller lips, round cheeks, straight noses, well placed dimples which are just some of the looks they are after. This has given rise to insurance companies who offer payment plans for these very expensive elective surgeries and procedures, so that others can afford to get work done. Our men and women, children, youths and young adults should not get involved in all such corruption in the world. The Church of God should be aware of all such schemes and corruption of the devil that wants to introduce into the church as Jezebel introduced Baal worship in Israel.

My dear and beloved: To face the struggles of life, we need God on our side. The Word of God tells us the following: ***"5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed."* (Psalm 34:5 KJV)** God wants us to turn to Him, to come back to Jesus and to His Word that gives light, hope and life, ***"16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. 17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."* (2 Corinthians 3:16-18 KJV)** **When there is repentance, there is freedom from sin, freedom from bondages and freedom from limitations; there will be more of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. In this way we can face problems with the assurance that God is with us. Therefore, we need to submit ourselves to walk in His ways.**

My prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that clarified things to me and showed me the places that I failed you.

Let us repent from our sins. Renounce your lack of trust in God, your fear of man and your trust on people. Renounce your make up and perfumes that you are using to have a prestige and attract others. Renounce your pride, your arrogance and stubbornness. Confess your sin of not reading the Word of God and lack of prayers. Renounce your anger, rudeness and your lack of gentleness. Renounce the sin of bribing other using your beauty and make up. Renounce your worldliness and your love to be famous. Renounce your bad stewardship and wasting your money on makeup and perfumes, accessories, mobiles and other non necessary things.

Renounce your immoralities and your extramarital relationships. Renounce your non willingness to humble down and go along the plan and the will of God. Renounce your bad example to others and the wrong lifestyle that you are living. Renounce your non willingness to serve God, your non willingness to suffer for Him and your non willingness to preach God's Word.

Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord I humble myself before you and before your Word that I heard today. Lord I commit myself to come out from all the worldliness of makeup, hair painting and perfumes. Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned from this message to apply and to teach my family, my wife and my children, and others, and help them to follow Christ. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, faith, gentleness, kindness, patience, perseverance, self-control, and long-suffering. Lord continues to provide for me and to protect me so I will continue to serve you in reaching new people and making new disciples for you.

Lord I fully trust you to deliver me from the following problem _____, and the following people _____.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and come back to you and are willing to serve you and live according to your will. Lord restore them back to you and to the ministry to serve you. Lord help them in their lives and in the trials that they are passing through. Lord protect and deliver them from the evil one and those who trouble them so their faith and their trust on you to be build up.

Lord bless us as your church. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go and on and serve. Lord help us to evangelize and to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus and to make new disciples and train new workers and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not fear pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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