

The Duties of the Priest Part 23

Worker's Apparel

“9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”
(1 Timothy 2: 9-10 KJV)

“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: 3-6 KJV)

Every man and woman was created by God and He adorned them with distinctive beauty. But the beauty of a man and woman according to God's standard is different from the standard of the world. God created us beautifully for a purpose. God does want us to have lasting beauty, contrary to the world's trend or style that changes every season. Worldly people look at the physical appearance of man; God looks at the heart. Yet God requires us to be dressed according to His standard in our physical appearance. We are the royal priests that maybe worldly people look at as old-fashioned or out-of-style people. But if our beauty including our physical apparel is according to God's standard it is surely everlasting. Thus our beauty and our responsibility as royal priests and a holy nation are ordained by God in order to fulfill God's purpose for mankind – to worship God.

1. We should dress with decency: We are the priests who worship God and who lead people to worship God. As we come into God's presence we should dress with decency which means our apparel should itself show courtesy and politeness to our God, and be respectable before the people. *“1 And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons. 2 And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.”* (Exodus 28:1-2 KJV)

The worker who stands in the church meeting should wear clothes that bring glory to God; apparel that is clean, ironed, fixed properly, and that which covers our attractive body parts, especially of the women. Our clothes should cover our upper arms, shoulders, chest, back, abdomen, and thighs in order not to entice men to sin.

To dress with decency should apply to men as well. Wearing shirts that expose arm muscles, shoulders, chest, or wearing short pants that expose the thighs of men is not honorable to God. Men who dress in this way would also entice women to sin. We are the priests so we must dress decently so that we can properly minister to people and we can bring people to Christ. Keeping sensitive body parts exposed is not decent in God's sight instead it dishonors our Creator who created us according to His image and likeness.

God commanded Moses about the priestly garment of Aaron and his sons that gives dignity and honor. The Lord said, *“2 And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.”* (Exodus 28:2 KJV) *“10 And the priest shall put on his linen garment, and his linen breeches shall he put upon his flesh, and take up the ashes which the fire hath consumed with the burnt offering on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar.”* (Leviticus 6:10 KJV) God required them to wear undergarments under their priestly apparel so they would not die. *“42 And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach: 43 And they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in unto the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near unto the altar to minister in the holy place; that they bear not iniquity, and die: it shall be a statute for ever unto him and his seed after him.”* (Exodus 28:42-43 KJV) Nowadays there are churches that allow people to come to worship wearing something only like an undergarment exposing parts of their bodies which is unacceptable to the Lord. *“26 Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.”* (Exodus 20:26 KJV) **God is very precise about our apparel especially when we come to the altar to minister.**

2. We dress with modesty: * We are God's servants and we should dress modestly which means to wear clothes that reserve our modesty. * Short and tight clothes that entice opposite gender and clothing that does not cover properly the fleshy tissue of a man or a woman will not give glory to God. * We ought to apply the dress code of modesty to both men and women because wearing clothes that expose fleshy body parts arouses lust for the opposite gender and entices sin and immorality. *“3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;”* (Ephesians 5:3 KJV) There should not be a hint of sexual immorality among the people of God. The woman who wears a tight dress might not intend in her mind to attract men or to show off her body's beauty. But such type of dress could be a temptation for someone to fall into sin. *“27 Neither give place to the devil.”* (Ephesians 4: 27 KJV) Immodest and daring attire that appeals to the sexual desire of man and woman is the foothold of the devil for people who lack self-control and are easily enticed by sin and immorality. *“31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:”* (1 Corinthians 10: 31-32 KJV)

Even if we are not in church worship meeting, but in our homes, in our work places, or in public places, we must always observe modesty in our appearance. If we, Christians dress in the same manner the nonbelievers do, then what is the difference between them and us? How can the world see Christ in us?

* More than that, we are molding our children's young mind according to the example that they see in us. Definitely they learn from us the habit of wearing proper or improper attire. Children acquire a taste for certain styles of apparel in their early age, so let us begin training them to dress properly while they are small. * If there is something we do not want our daughter or son to wear when she or he is fifteen years old, let us not make her or him dress that way while she or he is five years old or younger.

“26 Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.” (Exodus 20:26 KJV) Body movements and actions that expose intimate or personal body parts to others are not acceptable and should be avoided or to be done in the absence of the opposite gender's observation. Likewise we admonish men not to expose the parts of

their bodies in front of their daughters. And we admonish girls not to expose their body parts to their fathers or brothers.

The purpose of wearing clothes is not primarily to protect us from the elements of heat or cold. It is modesty! When Adam and Eve sinned their first impulse was to cover themselves with fig leaves. But later God gave them animal skin to cover their bodies. **“21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.” (Genesis 3:21 KJV)** God gave them a better kind of garment to cover their nakedness.

3. **We dress with propriety:** To dress with propriety means to dress correctly and appropriately. But it does not mean to wear beautiful and expensive apparel. For the beauty of the women should not come or depend on the braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or expensive clothes, **“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)** The Scriptures do not prohibit Christian women to have braided hair, or to wear fine clothes. Naomi said to Ruth, **“3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.” (Ruth 3:3 KJV)** * Scriptures do not prohibit men and women from wearing gold, jewels, or pearls, but as royal priests if we think that our beauty depends on such things, or if we use such things to boast, to show off and make ourselves attractive, then that is sin. * Furthermore if we keep silver, gold, pearls, diamonds, and other expensive apparels because we have greed in our hearts or because we love material things, these things become our idol and ultimately we sin against God.

God’s benchmark for a beautiful woman is never surpassed by any apparel or adornment that we see or buy in the market. Desperately, the so-called world’s beautiful women only last for years while they are young, but God’s standards make women beautiful till eternity. **“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)**

a) **Beauty that comes from inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight,** The woman who is gentle in speech and accent, who is quiet in behavior and action is the woman in whom the Spirit of God finds a place to stay. **“30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.” (Proverbs 31: 30-31 KJV)** * The Holy Spirit resides in the gentle, quiet, and submissive woman. The Holy Spirit finds a place to work in a woman endowed with such character traits. The Holy Spirit makes her face look radiant and glorious even under pressure or problem in life. * The woman who is submissive to her husband is a beautiful woman. A woman who respects her husband is a beautiful and attractive woman to her husband. **“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)** Whatever physical beauty the woman has in her body if she shows no submission and respect to her husband, her husband would no more be attracted to her. No man would love and become attracted to his wife if she shows no respect and submission toward him.

b) **Beauty that comes from their good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.** Women who are suitable helpers to their husbands are beautiful in the eyes of their husbands. The wife of good deeds is described as a fruitful vine for the royal priest. **“3 Thy**

wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.” (Psalm 128:3 KJV) A woman of good deeds is the wife of the royal priest and is described as a wife of noble character. **“23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.” (Proverbs 31:23, 31 KJV)**

4. **We dress with dignity for service:** The Lord commanded Moses to make garments for Aaron and for his sons whom God chose to minister to Him in the Tent of Meeting. **“20 When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the LORD: 21 So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.” (Exodus 30:20-21 KJV)**

Ceremonially the priests were clean every time they entered the Tent of Meeting. Today we are the priests washed by the blood of Jesus. We minister to God, to our family, and to the people in our church meetings. **We stand and lead people to offer praises and worship to God and sometimes for longer hours.** Thus it is practical to have a bath, to clean our physical body and wear proper clothes for service.

God also required the priest to wear linen turbans and linen undergarments. **“18 They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins; they shall not gird themselves with any thing that causeth sweat.” (Ezekiel 44:18 KJV)** The purpose of linen turban and undergarment that God recommended is most likely to absorb the sweat so that their bodies are kept fresh. **In the same manner let us also keep our body fresh and free from bad smell when we minister to God and to the people.** Physically fresh and clean body inside the proper clothing also develops our dignity and self-esteem.

In our place of work there is always a dress code that needs to be observed and we are reprimanded by our superiors if we do not abide. **The Lord Jesus Christ is our boss above all and the Bible has also the dress code that we need to follow.** Wearing decent and modest apparel facilitates us to bring the pure message of God to the people around us in a clearer way.

My Dear and Beloved: We are the royal priests and our apparel should also show that we are the royal priests of God. * Sometimes for some reason wearing formal attire is not feasible like while travelling over long distance, going into a remote area with non available facilities, or staying in an area with unfavorable weather, too cold or too hot. But still we are advised to do our best to present ourselves to people and to Christ holy and acceptable, and to bring glory and honor unto God in the manner we dress ourselves. * Let us present the message of Jesus Christ to the whole world in words, in deeds, and in our appearance with proper apparel as royal priests of God.

Let us pray . . .

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that opened my eyes about the importance of my dress, and to dress according to your Word and instruction, that I may bring glory and honor to you as being your own royal priest. Lord,

thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes, and the admonishments that I received from you today.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your worldliness and your love for the worldly things, your greed, your pride, your boasting and your showing off. Confess and renounce your trust on dress, ornaments and make up to make yourself beautiful. Confess your lack of humility and your non willingness to submit to your husband. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship and your non wise spending on your dress, make up and unnecessary accessories. Confess and renounce your lack of reading God's Word and life of prayer. Confess and renounce wearing non decent dress and became bad example to others especially to your family and children. Lord I repent, forgive me the following sins
_____.

Lord I commit myself to apply the practical points that I learned in this message, and to avoid wearing non decent dress and to set good example to others around me especially to my family and children. Lord I commit myself to be a good steward to my resources and to spend good time in reading your Word and life of prayer. Lord Help me to do all what I committed myself to do.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed themselves to apply the teaching that they received today in this message. Lord help them to do your will and make them good example to others to follow. Lord protect them and continue to provide their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to teach your people how to dress properly and how to conduct themselves while they are serving you. Lord help us to persevere to train new workers and to implement discipline and holiness in the life of our members, families and disciples. Lord we pray that you will continue to protect us and to provide to us our needs so we will continue to serve you. Lord refills us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts so that we continue to serve you. Lord lead us to evangelize, making new disciples, train new workers and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel 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.

The Duties of the Priest Part 23. Worker's Apparel. 1 Timothy 2: 9-10. 1 Peter 3: 3-6. Exodus 28:1-2, 42-43. Leviticus 6:10. Exodus 20:26. Ephesians 5:3. Ephesians 4: 27. 1 Corinthians 10: 31-32. Genesis 3:21. Ruth 3:3. Proverbs 31:23, 30-31. Psalm 128:3. Exodus 30:20-21. Ezekiel 44:18

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