

IS MODESTY DEAD?

Written years ago by Bro. Roy Mason (now with the Lord)

Needed today more than ever.

Sometime ago we came across a cartoon entitled "Is Modesty Dead?" in a copy of "LIFE" that came into our hands. It showed a thin, jaded looking female in abbreviated dress, cigarette between her lips standing at the grave of Modesty. The inscription says that Modesty died sometime between 1910 and 1924, but the jaded, worldly wise, flapper that stands by the grave is pictured by the artist as having never known that such a person as Modesty ever lived. She looks at the inscription and says, "Huh, never heard of her!"

Is it true that modesty is dead? Sometimes we are almost led to think so. On every hand one sees such a display of semi-nudity as to cause one to wonder if many have even heard of modesty. Undoubtedly styles are more shocking today than ever before in the life of our nation. If women had appeared on the streets two dozen years ago dressed as they commonly dress today they would in all probability have been arrested. And the sad thing is that Christian women are just as extreme in the matter of dress as lost women. Modesty and virtue go hand in hand, and with the loss of modesty in many cases there is loss of virtue. If the reader of these lines is honest, he will admit that there is more immorality today than was ever known before in the history of our nation. We hear of it on every hand, and our newspapers reek with their stories of immorality and scandal. Relations between the sexes are far more loose and careless than in the past, and conditions are such that many of the most serious minds of our nation are viewing the situation with alarm.

Will our nation descend to the level of ancient Rome and Greece? Will we become so loose, so immoral, so corrupt, that God will have to wipe us off the face of the earth as He did wicked Sodom so long ago? Without being pessimistic, facing the facts as they are, the outlook is certainly not promising. Such things as modern swimming attire, movies, and questionable magazines have contributed more than anything to the death of modesty in our time.

Too many of our churches make no protest against the things that are demoralizing our people. In positive cowardice they fear to speak out against worldly things and worldly ways. How indeed can they, when many church members are just as careless in the manner of dress and just as worldly in practice as the people who are out and out for the world? And many preachers seem to go on the assumption that “Whatever is, is right.” They say, “Times have changed. We need to modernize our conception of right and wrong.” But God’s standard of right and wrong doesn’t change. It is the business of church people to live above the world’s standard both as regards suggestive, immodest dress, and as regards worldly practices. It is our business to “Cry aloud and spare not.” No matter if we are called old fogey, no matter if we do sound like a voice crying in the wilderness. God does not expect us to live amid the situation without a protest against it.

The remedy is for Christian people to return to the teaching of the Word of God. The Word of God says for us not to be conformed to this world. It says for us not to be conformed to this world. It says for us to come out from among the people of the world and be separate. It says in the manner of dress, “I will therefore that women adorn themselves in modest apparel.” Such attire as is seen in the cartoon, such attire as is seen many times at church, such attire as is seen on the streets of the average town every day, can by no means be considered modest apparel.

These words are written with the realization that they will not meet with the approval of many, but we know that they meet with the approval of Him, who in His Word has told us “SHUN THE VERY APPEARANCE OF EVIL.”

*PASTOR’S NOTE: This Article was found written in the “*The Puritan Messenger*”, September, 1974. This Paper was a ministry of the *Hillcrest Baptist Church* of Winston—Salem, N.C.

Pastor N.R. Hille thought that the article was needed more today than ever before. It is sad to see God’s people commit abominations today with their clothing. Many today are dressing by the standards of the times and men’s traditions as oppose to *THE WORD OF GOD*. Well did Jeremiah prophesy of our day and the Baptists who live now: “*Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will no hearken.*” **Jerm.6:16.**

It is sad to see the Lord's Churches defaced and God's name disgraced by the fact that those who profess Him as Saviour manifest not that He is Lord in and over their lives. They frequent saloons, bars, clubs, restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages; they use tobacco products, gamble, attend dances all the while the Bible declares: *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."* **2Cor.6:17,18.**

Many have time for all of these activities, but they have not the time for tract distribution, door-to-door visitation, studying of the Scriptures, and time of family devotions. I fear that the DOCTRINE OF HOLINESS is not being preached in many pulpits today and it shows. For there is hardly a difference between many Baptists and the lost (**1Cor.4:7**). Remember the words of Simon Peter: *"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."* (**1Pet.1:14-16**).*