

# Jesus Appearance

## Humble and Modest Attire

(As an Example For Each of Us)

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The life of Jesus here on earth began most humbly... and that was the example GOD intended for all on earth to see. A heavenly host of angels glorified God and a humble baby Jesus, when they appeared to the shepherds, and humbly singing "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests," (Luke 2:14).

Also, the shepherds (after they had seen him, they spread the word about what had been told them about this (newborn) child, and all who heard (their words) were amazed at what the shepherds said to them (Luke 2:17-18) (about this newborn Son of God in humble circumstances).

How many people today (if they had not yet heard the story about Jesus' humble birth), would be amazed if they were told that the greatest King of kings, did not begin life in a palace, but in a rude wooden structure surrounded by straw and animals? Our blessed Savior Whom we could not praise too loudly nor too often, had a very humble beginning, and led a very humble life as an example for everyone.

Jesus both told His followers (Matt.11:29), that He was "gentle and (lowly) humble in heart," and He, taught that we could all 'learn from Him' if we would accept Him and repent of our outward self-pride and vanity, to follow and obey Him with 'humility in our heart.' We should also take 'careful notice' that Jesus' earthly life began in very humble surroundings, because He has instructed each one of us "Come follow Me" (Matt.19:21), (and we know from God's Word that He had a very humble lifestyle as example for us).

(Phil.2:3-4 teaches) "When you do things, do not let selfishness nor pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others."

God is constantly seeking to bring all those who will accept His beloved Son in true humility, to the place of great blessing, victory, and divine protection in everything.

Pride can degrade and change the highest of angels into a devil, but humility can raise fallen flesh to the highest heaven. That is God's plan ..to raise a new creation out of a fallen race of proud people.

It is God's desire to use us as an instrument of His to bring the 'Gospel Light' to others. If we truly commit our life to God, then we can be used by God to be a 'witness for Christ'. Whether we are at our workplace, at play, around the home, and with everyone near to us ... are they seeing 'Jesus in me?' Is my appearance as Jesus wants it to be, since He holds our destiny in His hands, and He will make judgment on my destiny! (John 5:26-29) "For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He has also given to the Son to have life in Himself. And He has conferred on Him authority to act as Judge, because He is the Son of Man. Wonder not at this. For a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear His voice and will come forth— they who have done what

is right to the resurrection of Life, and they whose actions have been evil to 'the resurrection of judgment'."

So, will Jesus see and find my appearance to be good and acceptable in His sight and worthy of 'resurrection to Life' (that is Life with a 'capital L'), OR will he see and find me to be of vanity, self-pride, and of appearance and enticement of 'evil' to others, and so be liable to 'resurrection of judgement (as He told us that He would do as that time is coming'.)

So, we should ask ourselves that question every day, and ask often, making reference to what God Himself told us (Micah 6:8) "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you, But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?" (One would have to be modest in appearance to "walk humbly with your God."

Therefore, apostle James was inspired by the Spirit of Jesus to assure and encourage all of us, saying (James 4:6-8,) "But He (God) gives more grace. Therefore, He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." (Vs 10) "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

To follow the example of Jesus Christ, would be to "Humble yourselves (or ourselves) in the sight of the Lord", so, therefore, apostle Peter was inspired by the Holy Spirit to clearly reveal for us what Jesus' example really is for us to be empowered by God's Spirit to understand and follow. (1 Pet.2:21-23) <sup>21</sup> And it is to this you were called; because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you an example so that you should follow in His steps. He never sinned, and no deceitful language was ever heard from His mouth. (Imagine that, no deceitful words from Jesus' mouth, as an example for us to follow when we are tempted to say things that can carry a double meaning to help us to get the result that we want or may covet!) (vs.23) "When He was reviled, He did not answer with reviling; when He suffered He uttered no threats, but left His wrongs in the hands of the righteous Judge."

(Again, one would have to be 'modest in appearance' in order to "walk humbly with your God." And we are reminded (1 Thess.5:19-22) "Do not quench the Spirit". "Do not despise prophecies." (Such as the prophet Micah telling us what God requires of each one of us). Rather, we are told (vs.21-23) "Test all things; hold fast what is good." "Abstain from every form of evil." (Wey. says) avoid every 'appearance of evil') (as we see all around us every day and even more so, we see the 'appearance of evil' at the 'Resorts' and on the beaches.) (vs.23-24) "Now may the God of peace Himself 'sanctify you completely'; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." "He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." (The apostle closed saying) "Brethren, pray for us."

(No wonder Jesus told us (Matt.5:48) "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect." (And Wey. says) "You, however, are to be complete in goodness, as your Heavenly Father is complete."

In order for each one of us to follow the humble and modest example of Jesus Christ "Who never sinned", and "leaving you an example so that

you should follow in His steps", "And it is to this you were called;" (as we were told so vs.21), .. then each of the many verses of Scripture mentioned above would surely instruct us, that true Christians should always dress modestly and to cover, and so, to "give no appearance of evil." Isaiah 53:2 tells us that Jesus "had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him." We make reference to a Scripture-based subject message, titled,

## **CHRISTIANS ARE MODESTLY DRESSED!!**

How a true Christian 'appears' to others outside of the home (because of the clothing one wears), should be result of a right inward 'heart attitude' toward God and His Word (which should portray a desire to follow Christ's humble example). That is, to go about unnoticed, and not attract the wrong type of attention from those around us. The way we dress as a Christian (woman or man) should be controlled by the mind of Christ within ourselves (not to just change our appearance as an act of 'outward religion').

When Christ is truly within a person's heart, they will dress as He would want them to, in a modest and proper manner of covering; (not dress to be admired, nor to attract attention from evil-minded people, and for wrong reasons). God's Word instructs us to dress becomingly, and His Word is the authority by which we conduct our life. We pray for the presence of 'God's Spirit' to be with us in our Church services so we may gather humbly in His presence. If we do not dress becomingly (in respect of the Lord) when we enter a sanctuary of His Holy Spirit, perhaps we have misunderstood the Holy Spirit's authority. (2 Tim. 2:9-10) in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but which is proper for women professing godliness." (Along this same thought), for a woman to wear a 'symbol of submission' on her head in our 'worship sanctuary' along with the requested presence of the Holy Spirit, is not just following some 'old-fashioned custom', .. rather it is on the authority of God's Word. (1 Cor. 11:10) "For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels." [Or, just the same as 'the angels' submit to Christ's authority], so also a 'Christian woman' would want to submit to the authority of God's inspired Word. ]

To dress with modesty and self-control at all times, portrays Christ within a person (man or woman), because it is on the authority of His Word, (and it is being clothed "with the ornament of good works"). In that way our clothing or covering would show respect for the way God desires for us to dress—for 'comfort and to cover'. (Genesis 3:7 says that Adam and Eve made coverings for themselves. (However, vs.21 says) "Also for Adam and his wife the 'LORD God' made tunics of skin, and (He) clothed them." (A tunic is a loose-fitting garment that was worn by men and women in ancient times. That is the style of clothing that 'God' designed for people to wear.)

Therefore, God not only authorized a covering for men and women. He also made the first garments loose-fitting by which to clothe them (that they need not be ashamed by revealing clothing)

We should know in our heart how relentless Satan is in this matter of controlling the way people dress (because of 'self-pride to want to be recognized', and to attract 'the wrong attention'), instead of abiding

by a humble spirit within (making a claim to godliness) with the ornament of good works." (1 Tim. 2:10 Wey).

Satan often deceives 'young people' using revealing styles of clothing (as worn by many worldly-minded people), in order to place wrong 'thoughts' in their 'mind' and wrong desires in their heart. If they would yield to those desires, it would cause them to drift from God's 'Truth' (to please Satan), and, lose valuable ground in their Christian race for Eternal Life (that race set before everyone of us). (Luke 17:1-3) Jesus warned his disciples: "Things' that 'cause people to sin' are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause (even) one of these little ones to sin. So, watch yourselves." (Jesus said). (Do not be the cause of sin.)

We should not try to fit in (nor 'conform to this world'); and that would surely include 'worldly ways' and 'styles of dress' (being advertised and sold by a Satan-inspired and controlled clothing manufacturing industry.) That very sheer and extremely 'stretch tight clothing' being worn by many people (in this day's 'liberal' and 'irresponsible' society,.. clothing (commonly referred to at times as tights, leggings, or yoga pants), which reveal 'body shape', would not be the loose-fitting covering (as God designed for humans to wear). These sheer, 'stocking-like garments' are being made by Satan-inspired 'clothing designers', intending to reveal personal body outlines, (for which God designed 'loose-fitting clothing' to cover). These 'modern day' 'styles of clothing' could not be considered as 'modest covering' for the body (as 'God' intended), but, rather, as a Satan-inspired 'substitution'.

[ Some research on the issue indicates that many hundreds (perhaps thousands) of 'school board committee' 'dress codes' in this country, have put a ban on students wearing the tights(or yoga pants) at their schools. If 'people' with a mind-set of 'the world' can recognize the provocative aspect of such clothing (and they object to wearing it), .. how much more should it be recognized by a true Christian with the mind-set of Jesus Christ, (and that they should object to their family dressing provocatively).]

It is important (when any question arises concerning vital issues like Christian attire and proper clothing), that we follow God's advice and the example of modest clothing that He designed as a covering for human beings. Rather than 'conform to the world', a Christian should, instead, live for God and conform to the image of Christ, so that He can prepare us for Eternal Life. (Rom.12:2) "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing, and perfect will." (That is the authority of 'God's Word'.)

Satan (all too often) causes an excessive desire to follow 'customs of the day', and to become a slave to 'styles', color, and 'designs in clothing' (that are usually the result of the 'pride' of self). The 'carnal mind' likes to be admired and looked up to by others, but that in itself is conforming to the world (instead of conforming to the modest and humble image of Christ.)

If a person truly wants to do 'God's will', and follow the humble modest example of Christ, which we (through Baptism) have promised to follow, ... we must be very careful of the clothes we select, (and especially of 'the message' we give by our 'appearance').

A person's 'personal appearance' (by the clothes they select and wear), makes a 'definite statement',.. which can represent 'the Lord' (by dressing modestly) (in a proper manner befitting of a true Christian), .. or.. their appearance can represent 'the world',... and attract the wrong people for the wrong reasons.

What looks proper in the eyes of the world (would almost always, not look proper in 'the sight of God'), (the One whom we must please at all times in our preparation for Eternal Life).

When something is widely accepted by (and, seems to 'control the minds' of the 'majority of people' in the world) (who are controlled by the devil as Jesus warned, John 8:44),... that should be 'a warning in itself' to the believer, who has truly surrendered to follow Christ in their life (and to be guided by the Holy Spirit). It is the mind of Christ within us, that enables one to determine how to dress modestly as God wants us to dress.

Before anyone (especially a young person) goes out the door of their home, they should ask themselves "What message am I communicating by my appearance?" If that message is one that would not please God, then they should change that look.

Every Christian individual should consider this matter seriously, and by going to God in prayer, asking Him to place a modest and humble virtuous spirit within themselves and their children, so that there will be no desire to 'follow the world' in this way. The Bible says to avoid even the appearance of evil. (1 Thess. 5:21-22) "Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil." (Thus, we would not want to appear to be evil.)

If anyone desires to please God in this matter (and they really want to appear as one should who has a Christlike spirit within) ... they can find a way to dress modestly. (not provocatively!)

[ "Dressing Modestly" ..... definitely 'God's will'! ]

(Again), "Pride and 'Self' can degrade and change the highest of angels into a devil, .. but modesty and humility can raise fallen flesh to the highest Heaven. That is God's plan...to raise 'a new creation' out of a fallen race of proud people.

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**The First-Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia**

S326R- SOME MAIN POINTS:

1 The life of Jesus here on earth began and was a continuing most humble life, and that was the example GOD intended for all on earth to see and follow.

2 . Jesus both told His followers (Matt.11:29), that He was "gentle and (lowly) humble in heart," and He, taught that we could all 'learn from Him' if we would accept Him and repent of our outward self-pride and vanity, with 'humility in our heart' and 'modesty in appearance', to follow and obey His example and His command to "Come follow Me" (Matt.19:21).

3 . The message emphasizes that "Pride of self" can degrade and change the highest of angels into a devil, but humility can raise fallen flesh to the highest heaven. That is God's plan to raise a new creation from a fallen race of proud people.

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