

## **HOLINESS ISSUES**

Before we get into specific questions, we need to understand basic principles:

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

**Philippians 1:9-11** And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

My primary motivation is not “what pleases me” or “what pleases others” but “what pleases GOD.” In the areas of holiness, I need to be doing the MAXIMUM, not being content with the MINIMUM. Sometimes, Scripture gives an example of how something displeases God instead of a direct “thou shalt not” – I need to pay attention to that!

**A. Holiness is a biblical synonym for separation, withdrawal, and sanctification.**

**1 Peter 1:15-16** *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.*

**B. Salvation is the most elastic word in the Bible.**

| <b>Time</b>                        | Past          | Present            | Future            |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Experience</b>                  | “I was saved” | “I am being saved” | “I will be saved” |
| <b>Theological Term</b>            | Justified     | Sanctified         | Glorified         |
| <b>I am saved from sin's</b>       | Penalty       | Power              | Presence          |
| <b>My holiness before God is</b>   | Positional    | Experiential       | Eternal           |
| <b>Sanctification occurs in my</b> | Spirit        | Soul (Mind)        | Body              |

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24** *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

**C. Most issues of holiness are not salvation issues; they are maturity issues.**

**James 4:17** *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

**D. Holiness is not about being conformed, but about being transformed.**

**Romans 12:1-2** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

**E. We are not saved by good works, but we are saved unto good works.**

**Ephesians 2:8-10** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

**F. God has given us three holiness teachers because there are three kinds of holiness standards.**

| <b>3 Holiness Teachers</b> | <b>3 Kinds of Standards</b> | <b>Implementation</b> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| The Bible                  | Bible Standards             |                       |
| Spiritual Leadership       | Church Standards            |                       |
| The Holy Spirit            | Personal Standards          |                       |

**G. God expects an external witness of our internal holiness.**

**Matthew 5:16** *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

**H. Holiness has more to do with CREATION than with CULTURE; that is why the Bible emphasizes different principles for men and women. Basically, men are commanded to act holy while women are commanded to appear holy.**

**1 Timothy 2:8-10** *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. 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; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*

- Where does the bible say specifically that a woman must have long uncut hair? Or that women must wear skirts/dresses to be holy before God and be saved?

**1 Corinthians 11:6** For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

**1 Corinthians 11:10** For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

- v. 10 – Because of her unique place in God's creation, a submitted woman has “**power**” on her head. This word “**exousia**” means “**liberty of action (permission), authority (influence), delegated power (jurisdiction)**” and pictures the woman exercising her God-given right to guard her home, her husband, her children and her church.

**1 Corinthians 11:14-15** Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

- v. 14-15 – **SO HOW LONG IS LONG?** The words “koma” and “kome” which are translated “long” in verses 14-15 mean “**UNCUT**” or “**LET THE HAIR GROW**” according to authoritative sources like Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Thayer's Lexicon, Gingrich's Lexicon, Bauer's Lexicon, Moulton & Milligan's Vocabulary of the Greek New Testament, and W.E. Vine's Expository Dictionary.
- v. 14-15 – The verbs in these verses imply “a condition which remains to be seen, expressed in the present tense, active voice, and subjunctive mood.” By expressing himself in this manner, Paul is saying that if a man **CONTINUES** to have short hair (regularly cuts it), he maintains his authority in the presence of God and is not shamed. But, if a woman **CONTINUES** to have uncut (and therefore long) hair, it is a glory to her and she maintains her authority in the presence of God. **THE TENSE AND MOOD OF THE VERBS LEAVE NO ROOM FOR DEBATE!** The condition of a man or woman's hair is a “continuing and incomplete” project, and must be maintained to be accepted by God. A man maintains this relationship by the continued cutting of his hair, while a woman maintains it by the continued growth of her hair.
- v. 16 – Paul says if any man is a “fight lover” that the churches have “no other practice.” Every reputable translation of Scripture supports this interpretation! It is the only natural summary to Paul's teaching. **“But there is no direct Biblical command saying women should not cut their hair!”** Paul said, *“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the **COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD.**”* (1 Corinthians 14:3)

## CLOTHING

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve tried to cover their nakedness by sewing together fig leaves to make an **APRON**. The Hebrew word **HAGORA** means “girdle, belt, loincloth, apron, loin-covering.” This is a garment covering the pubic region and hips, and is **MAN'S IDEA OF MODEST APPAREL**.

Verse 10 indicates that Adam and Eve still knew they were “naked” in God’s sight!

Since their covering was not acceptable to God, He used animal skins to make them a **COAT**. The Hebrew word **KUTTONET** means “a tunic with sleeves, coming down to the knees, sometimes to the ankles.” This is a garment with sleeves, covering from the shoulders at least to the knees, and is **GOD’S IDEA OF MODEST APPAREL**. It dates back to Adam and Eve!

*Definitions from authorities such as: Harris, Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament; Gesenius, Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon; Brown, Driver, Briggs, Hebrew and English Lexicon.*

When the Apostles in the New Testament write that a woman must wear “modest apparel” they use the word KATASTOLE, which is the same kind of garment!

**Since God doesn’t change, the principles of modest apparel have not changed either!**

**However, the most important gender distinction was not simply in WHAT they wore, but in HOW they wore it. There were MALE and FEMALE ways of utilizing their clothing.**

- **Firstly**, the priests wore “breeches” under their robes in Bible times. This word does not occur very often in Scripture, but in every case it is men’s apparel (Exodus 28:42, Exodus 39:28, Leviticus 6:10, Leviticus 16:4, Ezekiel 44:18) – women were not allowed to wear “breeches.” According to Hebrew lexicons, “breeches” means “trousers that extend below the knee.” The later English word “britches” developed from this term, as did our modern concept of “pants.”
- **Secondly**, men in Bible times were permitted to “gird up their loins” while women were not. A man could transform his robe into a closer-fitting, less cumbersome garment by bringing the back hem of his robe between his legs and tucking it into his waistband (girdle). This created a trouser-like effect, and was a distinctively masculine appearance. Women were allowed to lift up the hem of their robe to help carry something, but to raise it above their knees or to “gird up their loins” like a man was considered grossly immodest by God and by Biblical society.

**Deuteronomy 22:5** *The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.*

**- Is it a sin to cut the dead ends off your hair?**

This would be disobeying God’s command for a woman to have “KOME” hair – long and uncut hair – in 1 Corinthians 11.

## **- Is coloring your hair a sin?**

Coloring or dyeing the hair seems to go against a few Scriptures ..

**Matthew 5:36** Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

**Proverbs 16:31** The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

**Isaiah 29:16** Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

## **- If women wear skirts to their knees why does it seem to be frowned upon for guys to wear shorts to their knees?**

First of all, let's be clear – biblically, women are to wear skirts/dresses that COVER the knees, not just TO the knees. So that particular line of demarcation would be the same for men, and our discussion would only be related to shorts that COVER the knees at all times. Anything else would be immodest.

Three kinds of standards. There is no “Bible standard” about men wearing shorts that are MODEST – that would be covering the knee and LOOSE fitting (same for pants, by the way!). Also, pants that hang down and expose any of the torso are immodest in God's opinion. Pants that expose the undergarments are just gross! (WHY ARE YOU DOING IT?!) So, in these cases we have “church standards” (and of course, “personal standards”).

To determine a church standard, a pastor has to look at the DIRECTION a trend is headed and DRAW A LINE. If he doesn't the lines continue to slide irreparably. So I have to do what Paul did – “This speak I, not the Lord” and “I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.” But Paul still expected people to obey him because of his Apostolic leadership, and God expects that today as well.

There is no Bible standard saying a man can't wear modest shorts – that's why our guys can wear robes below the knees in our dramas. It's the same thing. But for general public dress, our church standard is that guys do not wear shorts of any kind. Why? Because shorts on guys would be opening the door to an argument for shorts on girls, and for shorter and shorter shorts! So that's the long and short of it!

## **- Doesn't religion overlook the real issues of being a Christian? Why can't I**

**just have a relationship with God having to conform myself to all the rules of a religion? I feel like religion hasn't done anything except beat me up with condemnation.**

Sometimes people who are religious beat us up with condemnation, but God never does that.

**John 3:16-17** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

A relationship with God is NOT about conforming to a bunch of rules – it is about being TRANSFORMED by His Spirit within us. It's like a parent and their children – we want them to “keep the rules” for their OWN good, not because it benefits us. That's the way it is with God – behind every RULE is a REWARD. And this is the real issue of Christianity anyway – that I am living to please GOD, not to please others, or even myself. That's why I keep the rules!

**- What is the relationship between works (reading the Bible, praying, doing "spiritual things" etc.) and being in communion with God? If you need to spend time with God everyday to maintain your relationship with him, isn't that "working" for God's love and His presence?**

I would answer this question by rephrasing it ... “What is the relationship between spending time with your spouse and having a great marriage? If you need to spend time with your spouse every day to maintain a great marriage, isn't that ‘working’ for their love?” The answer is that IT'S NOT WORK when you enjoy just being with the one you love! And that works the same way with God.

God is not looking for performance – He is looking for a relationship!

**1 John 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.