

Modesty: respectful dress, speech, or conduct

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. -St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, 12, 1-2

Now is the time of year when it is good for us to remember that respectful dress is an important thing.

God is not glorified by immodest dress or behavior. Coming to church dressed for a club or the beach is a sign of disrespect for God, His House and our brothers and sisters.

Let's be honest, this kind of clothing is designed to cause others to look at us and does not lead others to good or holy thoughts

Sometimes I hear, "God doesn't care how I dress He is just glad that I am in church. God does care how we dress since the Bible teaches, we, "should adorn ourselves in clothing, with modesty, and self-control..." (Tm, 2- 9). Some ask, "Why are people looking at me?"

People do look at us, especially when we are seeking attention by how we dress. Distracting others takes away from devotion and prayer. The quotes from the Bible above and below tell us God does care about how we dress. Clothing that is so tight that it leaves nothing to the imagination is also immodest; again it is distracting to many in the congregation.

St Paul says above, "Do not be conformed to this world..." Christians do not imitate celebrities or "sports heroes", Christians imitate Christ.

Gentlemen can dress inappropriately too, maybe not so much by showing too much skin but by wearing clothing that belongs in the garage or in the gym. Tee shirts that have messages or advertisements are distracting. Shirts with insults on them and advertisements for booze are common. These do not belong in church.

How we dress says something about what we think of ourselves, how we dress is an expression of ourselves.

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable clothing, with modesty and self-control... -St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy, 2:8-9)

With prayers before God,
fr. Phil