

I would like to propose that we take the lead in promoting modesty through [GROUP] and all the various outlets of our organization. This includes our conferences, but could include general instructions through both our offices and through [GROUP] congregations. It is basically a given that the bulk of the society around us has little regard for modesty, and that this problem exists in a large proportion in the Body of Messiah as well. We can see it most obviously through the worst cases of lewdness, but we can witness it as well in the fact that throughout the Body there simply is no communicated standard of modesty.

Since I think we will all agree that modesty is a holy practice, and that we should all seek it, what remains is that we must communicate it, draw the exact lines to set the standard, and in certain instances police it. I'd like to give brief suggestions to those concerns below:

- 1) Communicate it – We can communicate the need for modesty through notices and verbal communication at our conferences, and can also communicate it the same way at our offices and congregations. We can teach it in conjunction with good scriptural verses regarding holiness, modesty and our natural aversion to causing temptation. We can also point to the rich typology in much scripture, by which clothing represents righteousness and nakedness the shame of sin whereby clothing ourselves modestly is a visual example of the Gospel.
- 2) Setting the standard – Although standards of modesty vary somewhat, I strongly suggest a traditional standard which errs on the side of caution. For women, that means covering up from neck to ankle, and at least halfway down the arms. The clothing should be relatively loose (to conceal the form) and not overly thin. Pants should be discouraged, since in the majority of instances they are merely androgynous or tight enough to reveal the intimate details of the body. Like most people, I believe the standard is somewhat relaxed for men, although we ought to discourage things like tank tops, shorts, unbuttoned collars in anything other than a sports setting.
- 3) Policing it – I would suggest politely letting people who are pushing the limit know that we have a standard for holiness and modesty, and we wish them to respect that when they are around us. Those are the rules. For the worst example of immodesty, I suggest having extra clothes around, perhaps a robe, that we will ask those people to cover themselves with. That might make a strong impression.

I believe the standards and methods above will be effective in communicating modesty, although it will likely take time for people to take it on and adapt to it. Taking on modesty will certainly be easier and faster if we encourage people to buy from clothing stores which only sell modest clothing, as trying to meet good standards with contemporary clothes is much harder.

I realize turning around the ship on modesty and holiness looks like an impossible task, but it is the word of God which says that with Him are all things possible and blesses us saying – may the God of peace sanctify you completely. Surely modesty will be a part of our sanctification, and that sanctification a light to the world.

Yours in Messiah,

To the Holiness of the Bride

We would like to ask everyone coming to [_____] to dress modestly and respect the standard of modesty which we set. Seeking holiness in modesty is a part of a dedicated life in Messiah, but even for those who don't feel so dedicated, we would like you to respect our standards anyway and believe there is a great blessing in it for us all.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD. My soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks Himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with jewels. (Isa 60:10-11)

[picture or graphic of a woman and man dressed modestly – arrows indicating where we set the standards]

For people who come to [_____] and completely flaunt the standard of modesty we set, we will ask them to cover themselves up in order to participate. Thank you for respecting our standards of modesty.

Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev 19:7-8)