

## Is it Okay for Women to Crossdress?

Shalom brothers, Years ago, before I came to faith, and I was 31 when I first placed my trust in Yeshua, I used to listen to a lot of secular music. I played a lot of secular music on guitar as well. I can remember a memorable line in a song, well-known in punk rock circles, that still jumps out at me today. That line goes like this: I'm not crazy! You're the one that's crazy. The song's sung, or rather shouted out by a young man whose parents want to put him in a mental institution. It's shouted out in anger at the parents, as well as presumably the corrupt society which they represent. Though it may be different in some ways, I feel much the same sentiment today as this singer, but towards the modern Kahol (Church) that I deeply desire to see reform. When I look around not just at the corruption, but at the consistent silencing of any sincere biblical message, I want to shout out the same words as that singer does: I'm not crazy. You're the one that's crazy.

You know, speak the truth about any number of subjects to believers today, and many will stare at you like you come from another planet, or like this singer's parents apparently, think of you as crazy. Not long ago a believing friend of mine suggested my writing was a little disturbing; and not because of any psychologically aberrant things there or heresies, but because of simple biblical and common sense truth. He said it disturbed him. Now I want to point out that this was a believer who privately, quietly, agreed with some of my work towards reform and holiness. He was not closed-minded. I even thought, despite his skepticism towards a few things, he was quite fair minded. But he told me this: I find some of what you write kind of disturbing. I mean, why do you think women shouldn't wear pants?

That's a very modern question by the way. My statement that women shouldn't cross dress would not have seemed very oddball to believers merely decades ago. It wouldn't have sounded as if it comes from outer space. But separate Christians from good teachings for years, even generations, and then spit on anyone who wants to restore those good teachings, you'll find that those same Christians can barely recognize the truth; that means either biblical teachings, or the good common sense truths which have helped pious men to uphold them.

You see, women should not dress like men. Nor men like women. That's Bible. That's also common sense. Women should not dress in ways which are very sensual either, or tempting to

men. That's Bible. That's common sense. In fact, scripture specifically prohibits androgyny of dress and accessories in Deuteronomy 22:5 when it tells us "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God." Notice, this passage not only plainly prohibits gender-bending with clothes, but even instructs women not to wear anything that "pertains" to a man. This broadens things out a little, and lets us know there is a general spirit of masculinity and femininity, just as other passages in the Bible do. It's not just clothes, but things pertaining to the other as well.

Now let's look at pants. Number one, they were designed as a man's garment, not a woman's. Believers understood this for many years, which is why the gender bending which cut through society in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was strongly protested by Christians. In some parts of the country, women were even prohibited from wearing pants. It's not that difficult to understand really. I'd go so far as to say that any sane person can understand it. There are two principles at work here: **femininity** and **sensuality**. Nearly anyone can see that a woman in pants violates scripture in either of these two areas. Either the pants make her look less feminine, at times overtly masculine, or they come off as sensual, clinging to her body and providing a natural source of temptation. Just sit back and think about it for a minute. Probably ninety-five percent of pants will have one of those two effects on a woman, and we can all agree those two effects are ungodly.

I know I know, you're going to ask – what about those other five percent of pants? I asked that question myself too. Well, there is that very narrow band of pants which are neither masculine nor overly sensual. Those may be the loosely hanging, loosely fitting pants which, if not for a narrow strip of cloth between the legs, would otherwise be called a skirt. And some women wear these, albeit a small minority. I know I've seen similar pants for sale at Muslim modesty shops. But I still ask you this in reply – should we really want to walk a very narrow line between right and wrong? Should we pick something, and not at all out of necessity, which may or may not fit in the acceptable category? Or should we stand clearly on the side of right? I believe we ought to stand clearly on the side of right, even though this narrow band of pants which are neither masculine nor body-hugging exist. Besides, once we've stood in that narrow band, we have in many eyes opened up the category of men's garments for women, and they will then suggest we allow the other kinds of pants, the ones which more clearly violate scripture.

Brothers, just look at pictures of this if need be. I hope that my simple presentation itself has been convincing, but if you're not convinced, please look at pictures. Look at a picture of a woman in women's clothing such as skirts and dresses. Then look at pictures of women in jeans, in male dress slacks, and for the sake of our experiment only, women in pants which cling to the form. Can you NOT see the difference as clearly as I can? I'd say even if we had no idea that pants were originally designed for men, we would still see that women wearing them are almost always either more masculine or sensual. Then our next step is to ask why we are choosing for a woman to be masculine or sensual? And of course the next step is ending it. That's what I'd ask you to do today – end the gender bending and the ungodly sensuality. Respect God's word instead.

You know I don't write these pieces only to complain. I don't write them only to throw out the accusation of craziness at the modern Kahol, even though I do believe that it's gone mad. Rather I sincerely desire to point out the truth, and appeal to you, little image of the Savior, to bring that truth into your own lives and communities. That may be a matter of apparel as I discuss today, or it may be many other things; respect for gender roles, modesty, fertility, respect for the covenant of marriage. I know much of that sacred truth seems far off in this age. It might even seem oddball, disturbing or a bit crazy in an age where the Kahol is nearly unrecognizable. But take that step in return to God, and I believe you will see more clearly other steps of return we must take. Take that step in repentance and it will be a powerful light in the darkness, a source of navigation to a Church which is lost in the blackness. It will be an example of godliness. It will be a source of strength. It might also let us know just who the crazy one really is.