

Choose This Day...

A Bible study designed to bring understanding and decision.

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The Christian Lifestyle Continued

The Bible says much about the condition of our hearts and characters. Psalms 51:10 states "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Does the Bible instruct us on other aspects of our lifestyle, such as our outward appearance? Is there anything to be learned from the Bible about these issues?

Opening prayer: Gracious Father, we are searching Your word for guidance regarding our outward appearances. Guide us and give us Your good counsel. We want to represent You fully that You might be glorified, and allowing nothing to get in the way. Please use Your scriptures for inspiration and correction. We ask these things in the precious name of Jesus, amen.

Using the King James Bible, read each verse, filling in the missing words. What is his word telling us; does a clean heart affect our outward appearance?

1. *Genesis 3:6-7* "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were _____, and they knew that they were _____; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves _____."

2. *Genesis 3:21* "Unto Adam also and his wife did the Lord God make _____ of skins, and _____ them."

3. *Mark 16:5* "And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, _____ in a _____ white garment; and they were affrighted."

4. *Isaiah 3:16-24* "Moreover the Lord saith, Because the daughters of Zion are _____, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the Lord will discover their secret parts. In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling _____ about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, The chains and the bracelets, and the muffler, The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, The _____, and nose jewels, The _____ suits of apparel and the mantles, and the wimples and the crisping pins, The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the vails. And it shall come to pass, that instead of _____ smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and _____ instead of beauty."

5. *Revelation 1:13* "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the _____ of man, clothed with a _____ down to the _____, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle."

6. 1 Timothy 2:9-10 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in _____ apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or _____ array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

7. 1 Peter 3:1-7 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be ___ by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your _____ conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that _____ adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the _____ of a _____ and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of _____ price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving _____ unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

From God's word studied above, can you find the correct missing words in the list below to complete this fundamental principle?

That the Scriptures insist upon _____ and modesty of attire as a _____ mark of discipleship in those who profess to be the followers of Him who was, "_____ and _____ in heart," that the wearing of gold, pearls, and _____ array, or anything designed merely to _____ the person and foster the pride of the _____ heart, is to be _____, according to such scriptures as 1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:3-4.

natural / prominent / discarded / lowly / plainness / meek / adorn / costly

Closing prayer: Loving Father, Your wise words are clear. Help us to put them into action. Search our hearts, O Lord, give us Your wisdom in all we do, including dress and outward appearance. Keep us from pride, doing nothing to hold ourselves up, but only in You. Again, may Your word be our shield against evil-doing. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

Answers: 1. opened, naked, aprons 2. coats, clothed 3. clothed, long 4. haughty, ornaments, rings, changeable, sweet, burning 5. Son, garment, foot 6. modest, costly 7. won, chaste, outward, ornament, meek, great, honour

Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Malachi 3:16-17