

Disciples With Distinction – Holiness For Women

1 Timothy 2:8-10 ⁸ *will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.* ⁹ *In like manner also, that women **ADORN** themselves in modest **APPAREL**, with shamefacedness and sobriety [**ATTITUDE**]; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;* ¹⁰ *But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*

- In this lesson we will deal with the primary problem areas with holiness for **WOMEN**:
 1. Adornment (adorn themselves ... with ... not with)
 2. Apparel (modest apparel)
 3. Attitude (shamefacedness and sobriety)
- This is not to say that women never have problems with inner holiness, or that men never have problems with outer holiness. These are **TENDENCIES ONLY**, because of the distinct natures the sexes were created with. For both women and men, holiness begins on the inside and must be demonstrated on the outside.

PROBLEM AREA #1 – ADORNMENT

- **ADORN** means “to beautify or decorate with ornaments.” The Greek word is “kosmeo,” from which we derive our English word “cosmetics.” It comes from the root word “kosmos,” which is translated “world,” but also has the meaning “order, arrangement or decoration.” Thus, just as the attractive and orderly arrangement of the stars “adorns” the world, so humans can “adorn” themselves. **But the Apostles make it clear that the way women often desire to adorn themselves is in direct opposition to the way God desires for them to adorn themselves!**
- Our text is one of two very clear passages in the New Testament that deal with “**adornment**” and “**apparel**” for Christian women. Both Paul and Peter express similar admonitions; thus, the “standards” of the first century Apostolics become clear to us through even a casual study. Christianity was born into the Roman world of luxury and decadence, and it was in this context that Apostolics were called to live their faith.

1 Peter 3:1-5 ¹ *Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;* ² *While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.* ³ *Whose adorning let it not be that outward **ADORNING** of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of **APPAREL**;* ⁴ *But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit [**ATTITUDE**], which is in the sight of God of great price.* ⁵ *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:*

ADORNMENT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- **JEWELRY WAS ORIGINALLY A BLESSING FROM GOD.** Abraham was wealthy in silver and gold (Genesis 13:2), and God even instructed Israel to take the jewelry of the Egyptians on the night they were freed from bondage (Exodus 3:22, 11:2). This was God’s blessing on Israel, for it would give them “currency” with which to survive on their journey. Until this time, jewelry was viewed positively because of its practical function. **However, a disturbing trend was developing among God’s people, as they began to use their ornaments as an expression of pride and even sensuality.** This development helps us to understand why in the Old Testament God began calling His people to repentance by removing their ornaments.
- The situation came to a crisis point in Exodus 32-33 while Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments. Tired of waiting for Moses and anxious to have a visible god, the Israelites brought their ornaments to Aaron, who used them to make a molten calf in imitation of the gods of Egypt (Exodus 32:3-4). **ISRAEL HAD TURNED INTO IDOLS THE MOST VALUABLE GIFTS GOD HAD GIVEN THEM!**
- When Moses went up again to the mountain to plead with God to forgive their sin, God reassured Moses that He would keep His covenant to bring Israel to the land of Canaan, but He Himself would not go with them! If He were to appear among them in their rebellious state, His direct presence would mean their complete destruction (Exodus 33:2-3). When Israel learned that God would no longer guide them with His personal presence, they deeply repented of their sin and took off their jewelry (Exodus 33:4). In response, God offered to reconsider His action toward them, but He requested that they prove the depth of their repentance by permanently removing their ornaments (Exodus 33:5).
- **God’s command to the Israelites to remove their ornaments before going into the land of Canaan applies to us as we also journey to our “Promised Land.”** Canaan is not a type of Heaven, but of a “deeper spiritual experience” with God (accompanied by battles!).
- Jewelry is detrimental to our spiritual life because it turns the attention from God to us, and promotes the “**cult of self**” which is idolatry.
- When God instructed Moses to take up a freewill offering for the construction of the tabernacle, at the top of the long list of suggested items was GOLD. **God was not forcing it from the Israelites, but the suggestion is conspicuous!** They must have taken the hint, because they “brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold” to the Lord (Exodus 35:22). Israel also freely dedicated to the Lord the spoils of their future military victories, “what every man hath gotten, of jewels of gold, chains, and bracelets, rings, earrings, and tablets” (Numbers 31:50).

- **GOD EVENTUALLY VERBALIZED HIS HATRED FOR JEWELRY:**

Deut. 7:25-26 ²⁵ *The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: **thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God.*** ²⁶ *Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.*

- **THE OLD TESTAMENT REVEALS A GROWING TREND AGAINST JEWELRY**, for every time God's people began to possess it, jewelry led to spiritual decline through pride, sensuality or idolatry.

- The prophets consistently portray Israel as an adulterous woman decked with jewelry and makeup. A serious Bible student can easily see the connection in God's mind! (Jer. 4:30, Hos. 2:13, Eze. 23:40)

- **Jezebel** is not merely a Bible character, but rather a “**representative person**” in Scripture, much like Joseph was a type of Christ. Because she so completely embodied the spirit of seduction in Israel's history, her name is even carried over into the New Testament to symbolically express God's abhorrence of similar conduct (Revelation 2:20). Her seductive look, obtained with cosmetics and jewelry (2 Kings 9:30), is consistent with her lifelong effort to seduce the Israelites into idolatry.

- She not only dealt Israel a crippling spiritual blow, but her spirit is seen still trying to infiltrate the church in Revelation (where it causes Thyatira to fall under God's judgment). To be connected with this spirit of Jezebel is equated by God with “the depths of Satan” (Rev. 2:24).

Revelation 2:20 *Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because **thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.***

- **The Bible does not condemn all jewelry.** Men such as Judah (Gen. 38:18), Joseph (Gen. 41:42), Mordecai (Est. 8:2), Saul (2 Sam. 1:10), and Daniel (Dan. 5:29) wore jewelry. However, in each case the jewelry had a **FUNCTIONAL USE**. Signet rings were used to transact business; crowns, chains and bands were used to convey legal authority. The high priest's breastplate of precious stones had a similar function in Israel's worship (Exo. 28:17-38). Jewelry also had a functional use as a wedding token in Bible times (Gen. 24:47, Isa. 61:10, Jer. 2:32).
- Because the Bible does not condemn these various types of “**functional**” jewelry in the Old Testament, we also maintain a **balanced position** by making allowance for a **minimal amount of “functional” jewelry** (such as wedding rings, wristwatches, hair clips, etc.), while maintaining God's desired prohibition on jewelry for the **sole purpose of adornment**.

ADORNMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- The apostolic admonitions of Peter and Paul are even more explicit than Old Testament commands. The New Testament repeatedly contrasts the **INNER ADORNING** of a meek and quiet spirit with the **OUTER ADORNING** of the body by elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls and costly attire. These are not **TWO MODES** of the **SAME** lifestyle, but **TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LIFESTYLES!**
- **Both Peter and Paul expect women to adorn themselves, so long as it is in a proper fashion.** **God does not condemn natural ornaments!** God could have designed all fruits and vegetables to be green, but He created them in a variety of colors so that they would give us not only food but also beauty. God does not expect us to be drab or colorless in appearance, but He does expect godly adornment!
- There must be a **consistency** between the **inward life** and the **outward appearance** of a Christian! To pretend to come humbly before God while we are adorned in a way we know He does not like is **hypocrisy!**
- Jude quotes extensively from the **Book of Enoch** in his epistle (a Hebrew copy of this book dating to 300 years before Christ has been found in Israel). Though not considered “inspired,” Jude's direct quotes from it let us know that he considered much of this book to be factual:

Jude 14 *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,*

Jude 8 *Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.*
- **Enoch** recorded that it was the fallen angels who originally taught men to create **weapons** (in order to destroy men), and taught women to produce **makeup** and paint their faces (also in order to destroy men!). Here is the direct quote from the **Book of Enoch**:
- **Enoch 8:1-3** *[The fallen angels] taught men to make swords, and knives, and shields, and breastplates, and made known to them the metals of the earth and the art of working them, and bracelets, and ornaments, and the use of antimony, and the beautifying of the eyelids, and all kinds of costly stones, and all colouring tinctures. And there arose much godlessness, and they committed fornication, and they were led astray, and became corrupt in all their ways.*
- **There is no longer a negative connotation associated with jewelry or makeup in our culture**, but we seek to please God rather than man. Society's acceptance of any practice does not change the way God views it, or the **spiritual reasons** for its prohibition. Makeup and jewelry still highlight sensuality, encourage pride, affect the wearer and the observer, and teach a distorted value system as much as they ever did.

PROBLEM AREA #2 – APPAREL

- **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.*
- **1 Samuel 16:7** *But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*
- Does it matter how we appear on the outside if God looks on the heart? ABSOLUTELY! Man DOES look on the outward appearance.
- Some people dress to be admired, pleasing themselves. Other people dress to be accepted, pleasing others. Christians, however, dress to glorify God.
- To dress modestly implies that clothing must provide sufficient covering for the body so that others are not tempted.
- **Modesty must conform to GOD'S opinion, not YOUR opinion!**

MANKIND'S FIRST CLOTHING

- At first Adam and Eve were “clothed in innocence,” but after sin came their nakedness became a shame and danger to them. They were now separated from God's glory, which had been their covering.
Genesis 2:25 *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*
- They 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**.
Genesis 3:7 *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*
- However, Adam and Eve still knew they were “naked” in God's sight!
Genesis 3:10 *And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*
- 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!

Genesis 3:21 *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

- Nakedness was covered from the beginning by God to defeat the temptation it created. It is associated with sexual impulses and desires, so much so that to “see” or “uncover” nakedness is a Biblical euphemism for “sexual intercourse” (Leviticus 20:17). Nakedness as a moral shame is found from Genesis (3:7) through Revelation (16:15).
- **Since God doesn't change, the principles of modest apparel have not changed either!**

GENDER DISTINCTION IN THE BIBLE

- Historically, men and women have worn robes for the major part of human history. **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.” Women in Bible times did not wear “crotched garments” (pants) because of God's disapproval. Thus, pants were worn exclusively by men for the first 5900 years of human history. **Only in our century has women's apparel suddenly become “impractical” for women to wear!**
- **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. For women to “gird up their loins” like a man was considered grossly immodest by God and by Biblical society.
Job 38:3 *Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.*
- God associated Job's acceptance of manly responsibility with the state of his apparel! But that is perhaps not so remarkable when we consider the modern association of responsibility with the question of “who wears the pants in this family”!
- **ANY GARMENT THAT SHOWS A SEPARATION OF THE LEGS ABOVE THE KNEE IS IMMODEST APPAREL FOR A GODLY WOMAN. GOD DOES NOT APPROVE OF IT!**

AN ABOMINATION UNTO THE LORD

- **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.*
- Notice that the commands are different for men and women. A man must not "put on a woman's garment," that is the feminine attire itself with its distinctive styling. That is enough of a command for him, because adorning is not his particular problem area. However, the instructions are more strict for a woman (because she is tempted more in this area). She is not even to wear "that which pertaineth unto a man." Pertain means "relate, have reference to, be appropriate for." It's Latin root word means "to reach toward." In other words, SHE MUST NOT ALLOW HER FEMININE APPAREL TO "REACH TOWARD" OR EVEN SLIGHTLY RESEMBLE A MAN'S CLOTHING OR HIS MASCULINE BEARING.
- The word "abomination" occurs over 40 times in the Pentateuch. Its root meaning is "disgusting, filthy, loathsome or abhorrent." While there were certain things that were merely an abomination "to Israel" (Leviticus 11:10) under the ceremonial law, other things were an abomination "unto the Lord" under the moral law. **Wearing apparel like that of the opposite sex is an abomination unto the Lord!**

APOSTOLIC ADMONITIONS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- The word "**apparel**," as used by Paul in 1 Timothy 2:8-10, comes from the Greek word "katastole" which means "a long flowing garment." This word reflects a style of garment the Greeks called "katastola" which was loose-fitting ("flowing") and covered from the neck to the knees ("long").
- **Paul requires the same type of garment God required in Genesis 3!**
- The garment of a woman should cover her thigh and knee. It does not have to be longer; if Paul wanted to specify an ankle-length garment he would have used the Greek word "poderes" (as in Revelation 1:13).
- PANTS are not a modest garment for a woman, because even though they are past the knee ("long") they are not a "flowing" garment. They also "gird up the loins" (separate the legs above the knee), so they are only appropriate for a man to wear.
- TIGHT garments of any type are also not modest because they are not "flowing" garments.
- Paul also teaches us that a woman's clothing should follow the principles of "shamefacedness" and "sobriety," that is, she is responsible to dress so that she does not "turn the eyes, the mind or the attention" to the form of her body.

PROBLEM AREA #3 – ATTITUDE

- **The attitude is an inward feeling expressed by outward behavior.** (That is why an attitude can be "seen" without a word being said!)
- THE ATTITUDE OF MANY TODAY IS, "**HOW MUCH DO I HAVE TO DO TO BE SAVED?**" THE ATTITUDE OF A CHRISTIAN IS, "**HOW MUCH CAN I DO TO PLEASE MY SAVIOR?**" IF YOU LIVE BY THAT ATTITUDE, YOU WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH HOLINESS!
- Notice in these examples the emphasis that the Bible places on a woman's **ATTITUDE**. She is to be ...
MEEK: 1 Peter 3:4 *But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*
SUBMITTED: Ephesians 5:22 *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*
- The Biblical requirements for a woman's attitude are not because she is INFERIOR to man, but simply because of God's ORDER of creation.
- The holiness standard that perhaps best exemplifies a woman's acceptance of her God-given role is the one concerning her **HAIR**. This is a "headship issue" that goes all the way back to creation.
- **1 Corinthians 11:3-5** ³*But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.* ⁴*Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.* ⁵*But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.*
- Before he gives an admonition to the Corinthian women about their **APPEARANCE**, Paul shows them how they should be under **AUTHORITY** ("kephale" – "head"). **A submissive heart on the inside will always demonstrate a submissive demeanor on the outside!**
- The problem in the Corinthian church was not with Christian women cutting their hair – **every reputable Bible scholar emphatically states that moral women in all cultures of Paul's day did not!** The problem was that Christian women, enamoured with their newfound freedom in Christ, were no longer wearing veils as their culture demanded. This unintentionally identified them with the heathen priestesses in the local temples to Apollo and Aphrodite who offered their worship bareheaded with disheveled hair, and thus by association with the hundreds of temple prostitutes who even cut off their hair to offer it in sensuous religious rites. That is why Paul tells them in the same epistle, "*All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.*" (1 Corinthians 10:23)

- Paul teaches the Corinthians that a man should not worship with his head covered, while a woman should wear a veil. These customs indicate modesty in Corinthian culture. If a woman refuses to wear a veil, Paul says she might as well cut her hair or even go to the extreme of shaving her head, because she is already bringing shame to herself and to her husband. **Scholars agree that these women would never even think of cutting their hair – Paul has made his point! REBELLION IN A “MINOR” AREA IS STILL REBELLION!**
- **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.*
- Is it a **sin** or just a “**shame**” for a woman to cut her hair? This word “shame” comes from the Greek “aischron” which refers to something that is a disgrace. It is the neuter form of “aischros” which is translated “filthy,” or “that which is opposed to modesty or purity.”
- The word shaven is self-explanatory (“cut near the surface, make bare or smooth”), but what does shorn (Greek “keiro”) mean? Most scholars and translators see it as meaning “cut with shears, remove by cutting” **WITHOUT SPECIFYING HOW MUCH**. It seems that hair is “shorn” if it is cut at all. **However, to be sure we will need to look beyond this verse for further explanation.**
- **1 Corinthians 11:7-9** ⁷*For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.* ⁸*For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.* ⁹*Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.*
- **When a woman enters God’s presence with her hair cut, she removes herself from God’s ORDER.**
- In creation, God gave man and woman certain unchangeable physical characteristics to distinguish them, but He allowed them both to possess **one changeable physical characteristic**. Both men and women can manipulate their **HAIR!** Men can grow their hair long and women can cut their hair short, but by conforming to God’s standard, they demonstrate their willingness to accept God’s authority.
- **1 Corinthians 11:10** *For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.*
- There is a very good reason that godly women CHOOSE to be under authority! 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, husband, children and church.
- A godly woman’s uncut hair is the mark of her authority in the presence of God – and in the spirit realm! Both angels and demons (fallen angels) recognize spiritual authority - and they know when it is not present!
- **1 Corinthians 11:11-15** ¹¹*Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.* ¹²*For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.* ¹³*Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?* ¹⁴*Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?* ¹⁵*But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.*
- Paul moves to the crux of the matter by exhorting the Corinthians to **JUDGE IN YOURSELVES!** After everything Paul has taught, the only logical conclusion is that it is not “**COMELY**” (“becoming”) for a woman to worship if she is unwilling to submit to authority by wearing a veil.
- **HOW DOES “NATURE ITSELF” TEACH THIS?** Man’s inbred sense of propriety (“nature”) makes virtually every society look at long hair on a man as uncomely. But also look at a number of men who have reached mature years – we find very few bald women in humanity, but as men age most of them will experience some baldness, by some complex genetic mechanism. God clears off the head of man as time goes on, while only sickness is associated with the balding of women. Nature’s teaching is so plain that it sometimes escapes our sophisticated minds!
- The word “glory” (“doxa”) means “a good opinion resulting in praise.” Literally, “God has a good opinion of her!” The word also expresses how the woman’s submission in having long hair “reflects” God’s glory.
- **HOW LONG IS LONG?** The words “koma” and “kome” (translated “long” in v. 14-15) mean “UNCUT” or “LET THE HAIR GROW.” The verbs imply “a condition which remains to be seen.” If a man **CONTINUES** to have short hair (regularly cuts it), he maintains his authority in the presence of God and is not shamed. Similarly, if a woman **CONTINUES** to have uncut (therefore long) hair, it is a glory to her and she maintains her authority in the presence of God.
- **DO CHRISTIAN WOMEN HAVE TO WEAR A VEIL TODAY?** Not according to Paul! As he concludes his teaching on authority and the cultural necessity of wearing a veil, he reminds the women that their long hair is their **REAL** covering. The phrase “for a covering” in verse 15 is translated “INSTEAD OF a covering” by Young’s Literal Translation of the Bible, “TO SERVE AS a covering” by Today’s English Version, and “INSTEAD OF a veil” by the Interlinear Greek-English New Testament. This is also supported by several other Bible translations.
- The only time a veil is needed is when culture demands it of modest women. We then observe the practice not because it is necessary before God, but because we want to win our culture to God!

- **CHRISTIAN WOMEN DO NEED TO HAVE UNCUT HAIR BECAUSE:**
 1. It demonstrates her acceptance of her God-given role.
 2. It demonstrates her submission to her husband (or father).
 3. It brings “permission, influence and jurisdiction” in the spirit realm (“power on her head”) because of her submission.
 4. The holy angels observe a woman's submission to God's authority.
 5. It is a disgrace (“shame”) before God for a woman to cut her hair.
 6. Nature (“instinct”) teaches us these principles.
 7. It maintains a definite line of distinction between the sexes.
 8. It is her glory (“God has a good opinion of her!”) and reflects God's glory.
 9. Her submission is a type of the church's submission to Christ.
 10. GOD REQUESTS IT!

- **1 Corinthians 11:16** *But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.*

- 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)

- **“BUT I'M NOT CONVICTED ABOUT HOLINESS STANDARDS.”**

- Your lack of conviction does not give you permission to ignore or rebel against the Bible. You must ask yourself, “What is the final authority for how I live? My feelings and convictions? Or the Bible?” Feelings are deceptive, but the Holy Ghost will never lead you contrary to the Bible.

- Some say that their lifestyle is okay because it is **COMMON, COMFORTABLE** and **CONVENIENT**. But these concepts have absolutely nothing to do with a Biblical relationship with God!