

## **Changed Appearance 330, Part 4**

### **The “Umbrella” principles:**

- Our actions please God rather than grieve Him (*Colossians 3:17, Ephesians 4:30, 2 Corinthians 5:9*)
- Our actions regard our bodies as temples of the Holy Ghost (*1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20*)
- Our actions are above accusation (*1 Peter 2:11-12, Romans 14:16*)
- Our actions impact others (*Romans 14:12-13, 1 Corinthians 8:9*)
- Our actions don't give place to sinful humanity (*1 John 2:16*)
- Christians are transformed, not conformed (*Romans 12:1-2*)
- Christians practice modesty (*1 Timothy 2:8-10, 1 Peter 3:1-5*)

Followers like to ask, “What is best?”, “What is safest?”, “What is most Biblical?”, “What pleases Our Savior?”

Humans are God's very good creation (*Genesis 1, Psalm 139:13-14, Romans 9:20*)

*Genesis 1:31* Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Christianity is in favor of God's definition of beauty. We regard His definition of “very good” above man's definition of “very good”. We respect and value God's creation of humankind just as we respect His creation of galaxies, stars, mountains, seas, trees, flowers, etc. We recognize His entire creation as very good.

### Disciples and ornamentation:

In the OT, repentance is associated with removal of ornaments. (*Exodus 32 & 33, Isaiah 3*)

In the NT, modesty focuses on inward beauty rather than ornamentation. (*1 Timothy 2:8-10, 1 Peter 3:3-5*)

Some jewelry has generally understood purpose beyond ornamentation; i.e. a king's signet ring

Therefore, we choose to limit our use of jewelry to those items with a purpose that is generally recognized by society. For instance: watches, engagement & wedding rings, or class rings.

#### Disciples and costly apparel:

How costly is costly? One has to consider income, percentage of income spent on apparel, and also the overall impact of cost in comparison to the general public.

We should also consider the best use of our money. Can this same amount of money be used for a greater cause or benefit?

#### Disciples and artificial coloring

How do these various Biblical principles apply to artificially coloring our bodies? Whether facial coloring, nail coloring, skin coloring, hair coloring, colored contacts, etc.

Scriptural references to coloration are mostly negative. (*2 Kings 9, Proverbs 6:25, Jeremiah 4:30, Ezekiel 23:40*)

Coloration of our bodies is not recommended as a positive practice.

Therefore, as we embrace our appearance as God's creation, we choose not to change the color of our physical being: hair, face, nails, skin, etc.

These practices work hand-in-hand with the knowledge that our bodies are temples of the Holy Ghost. We practice these without abandoning proper care for our body in terms of health, hygiene & grooming.

*Coming in August, we will spend our time in the book of Proverbs! In conjunction with that, I invite you to read one chapter of Proverbs each day of the month.*