

Changed Appearance

Does Christianity impact my appearance? Should it? If so, how? What does the Bible have to say about changed appearance?

The "Umbrella" principles:

- Our actions please God rather than grieve Him (*Colossians 3:17, Ephesians 4:30*)
- 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 the devil (*Ephesians 4:25-27, 1 Peter 5:8-9*)
- Our actions don't give place to sinful humanity (*1 John 2:16*)

From Changed Actions (Pt3): *I Cor 6:18 (NLT) 18* Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) Do not be conformed to this world

Differentiation of the Sexes:

Genesis 1:27-28, 31 In the beginning, God created man and woman.

Genesis 2:18-25 If God saw no need for distinct genders, then why create Eve?

Gender distinction is physical, physiological, social, intellectual, emotional, and created to be distinct by Almighty God at creation. None of these distinctions have to do with capacity or ability or value, rather they recognize the genuine differences between the sexes.

Modesty: (MW)

- the quality of not being too proud or confident about yourself or your abilities; freedom from conceit or vanity
- propriety in dress, speech, or conduct
- the quality of behaving and especially dressing in ways that do not attract sexual attention

Genesis 3:6-7, 21 Man's definition of modesty is not the same as God's.

1 Timothy 2:8-10, 1 Peter 3:1-5 Christians are to be known most for their character, rather than their appearance.

Other notes regarding modesty:

Modest apparel implies clothing that isn't ostentatious, conspicuous, flamboyant, extravagant, intended to draw attention.

Modest apparel implies clothing that does not indecently expose the body to attract sexual attention, whether intentionally or carelessly. This involves insufficient clothing, revealing clothing, thin or sheer clothing, or closely-fitted clothing.

Because we understand God's design and value for differentiation of the sexes, we also know that modest apparel certainly allows for appropriate masculinity and femininity.

In practicality, modest apparel is a function of people and place. I.e. Marriage, immediate family, extended family, privacy or public settings.

Immediate family: Best to inform children as they approach adolescence that the privileges of adulthood require responsibilities too, such as modest apparel.

Extended family: Beyond the consideration for children, the best modesty practice is to consider extended family as you would the general public.