

True Dress Reform

Christians are too often consumed with the externals of life as Matthew 6:31-33 says, "What shall I wear? Wherewithal shall I be clothed?" When the weightier matter is, "Am I **clothed with Christ?**"

Do I know how to get **in** Christ and manifest a Christ-like spirit in all circumstances? Do I know how to surrender to God's will, when self's will is crossed? See 5T 513-516. Do I daily "Put on Christ" enthroning Him on my heart's will, so His divine power can change, subdue and save me from serving self, on the inside? The inside being my thoughts, feelings, emotions, tastes and desires. We need the indwelling Christ. God works from the inside outward. The inward surrender of my thoughts, feelings and words to the Holy Spirit's influence to my mind, must be learned in order for Christ to adorn me with the essential **undergarments** of Christ-like faith and virtue, first! These rightly understood are the foundations of our life in Christ. It is union and communion with Christ at all times leading me. It is putting on the qualities of Peter's Ladder in our life, in the **specific order** listed, that prepares the Christian to receive the outer dress. 2 Peter 1:5 says, "Add to your faith (belief) ... virtue (enabling power to obey). Is not the power to live and obey, Christ's outer garment? Yes, His robe of righteousness represents our being

changed in character and temperament from sinfulness and self-serving to serving God and holiness. These character traits must become a daily reality working deeply, effecting a change in my Christian experience, redeeming me **now** from serving selfishness. In practicality it is turning away from irritation towards my spouse or child, or an unChrist-like dress style. This inner relationship must be experienced and surrendered to before we can step the next rung of Peter's ladder and obtain knowledge, then temperance, then patience and last Godliness. Do we possess those first 2 virtues? Securing this robe of righteousness, inwardly first is where we need to put our greatest efforts in the Christian walk. This "**putting on the Lord Jesus Christ**" Romans 13:14, needs to be the dress we secure daily, without fail. Then we must also gain the experience of how to keep it on continually, lest we be found **naked** of the indwelling Christ before the whole world!

Modesty

Modesty is the first characteristic of Christian dress that I would like to address. Modesty is being so pliable in God's hands that when God's will and my selfish will are at variance, I will say "no" to self by saying

"yes" to God's will. I will bend all my energies to do this, by God's grace no matter how crucifying to self this may be. In this I will find happiness like I've never known before. We will lay aside any thought, habit, or favorite article of clothing in order to remain clothed **in** Christ. Self must willingly and decidedly be laid aside in all circumstances, not just when it is convenient or in accordance with our feelings or will. But where do I get such firmness, decisiveness and self-control as this? By putting self in God's hands, by spending those morning hours faithfully, regularly at Jesus feet. By communing with God and by doing His will. He can then cloth us with His divine nature, replacing our garments of selfishness with holiness.

We must cooperate in this process of putting on Christ, the same as a little child must cooperate with his parents in order to get dressed properly in the morning. In reality we are just as dependent on Christ helping us on with right doings for the day as a little child is dependent on the parent putting on his physical clothes properly. You will notice God always works from the inside out. **Inward heart modesty** (yielding thoughts and words to Christ) **precedes** true outward, lasting modesty (acts and deeds). We must learn to yield our wills to God, then we will be willing to yield our outer dress to His control too. Then you have heavenly modesty and you will do Christ's will not only in dress but in all you do, say or think today.

Fig Leaves

If true modesty is the very life of Christ replacing my nakedness of unrighteousness, as I choose to lay self aside and receive Christ's will, strength, wisdom, selflessness, purity, obedience etc, then what is the counterfeit to this clothing of Christ? Why fig leaves, of course! Man made clothing of fig leaves are the **arguments or excuses** for why man can disobey. It lays the blame on others or circumstances. It excuses disobedience and thereby denies its condition of nakedness. This is the **clothing of self**. What a contrast! Isn't this what Adam and Eve did as a substitute to **cover** their nakedness of disobedience? To deny their disobedience to excuse it? Yes! When they sinned (disobeyed), their life was at that moment, **in self**. Their actions were independent of Christ. They lost Christ's robe of light ... or right doing. They chose to follow self. So they separated from God as a result.

So do we do, as Adam's children! When we do life our way, or wear the clothes we like without consult-

ing God, for fear He may say no to us, we are not then in Christ but **in self** aren't we? God cannot **cover** disobedience. So Christ must quietly leave, taking with Him, His garment of righteousness and light. Then man seeing or sensing his nakedness doesn't want to confess his wrong, so he makes a **covering** of fig leaves, which are the arguments and excuses used to justify disobedience. God does not want our sins covered up but rather, He longs to cleanse us from our sins, wash them away and make us righteous once again **in** Him. See R&H June 4, 1901. Notice the "self made" clothing covers and excuses disobedience but God's clothing requires confessing, forsaking and cleansing of unrighteousness in words and actions. When we cooperate and do Christ's will, trusting in Him, then Christ can **replace** our unrighteousness with His righteousness. See how we need to cooperate? Don't you want God to cloth you with His beauty of holiness rather than retain the dangerous, pretentious fig leaves of self's devising? See DA 581-4. We need then to bend every energy to choose to be **in Christ** and cooperate with God in helping us to change our garments of self, for the garments of Christ.

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning ... But let it be the hidden man of the heart in the which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, (surrender) which is in the sight of God of great price." 1 Peter 3:3-4.

Practically speaking our fig leaves (outward adorning) could be our "I don't want to change" my dress style or "I can't" for whatever reason. These thoughts merely represent our present feelings or tastes in this matter, irrespective of knowing God's will for me. Would God ask us to obey, if we couldn't? Reality is, if we follow these thoughts and feelings, of I can't or I won't ... without consulting God first, we are exercising our independence from God just as Satan would will for us to do. If we recognize these facts, and rather set our will to do Christ's way, we can call upon our Saviour to save us from our resistive, independent feelings and tastes we are experiencing towards a change in our dress style. Christ can and will then put in us that new heart, that new desire to dress for His honor and glory. Redemption is begun. As we choose to connect with God, and act on principle to do right, then sooner or later, even our likes, feelings and thoughts are changed. Our part is to call out to God and cooperate in right doing in order for God to work on the inside. And most importantly, we must know and experience that we are happiest in doing the will of God. A meek and quiet

spirit is one that yields self and then bends all its will and efforts to do God's revealed will, in our inner man. God is the Creator. We can praise only heavenly grace for this change in us. We can then be pleased to have one more avenue of our lives under the Lordship of Christ. We are then preparing for the full robe of Christ's righteousness as we step closer to the full surrender of all in our life to His Lordship.

Defrauding

I recall when God called me to a higher level of modesty in my dress. It required **me** to change. First He put **in** me a strong desire to dress more like a lady. As I cooperated in this change of dressing, then God began revealing clothes that needed to be put away. He wanted me to cleanse away my shorts, my short skirts, my V-necks, my tighter clothing, my favorite 2 piece bathing suit and later other inappropriate figure-revealing articles. My conscience inside was in a war with conflicting likes and dislikes. Conflicting emotions - one to put them away and another to cling to those favorite articles of clothing. What a struggle at times ensued with self. God graciously gave me some time and space to make a free will decision. God does not force, but He doesn't leave us unaware either.

He also began to teach me why these clothes were not modest for a child or a woman professing godliness. God presented defrauding as a stumbling block to both men and women around me. These clothes were encouraging some, to retain that wrong style while considering it appropriate. In some women it can stir up jealousy or coveting. In men it can stir up their base passions. Since I was now a Christian (follower after Christ) I was to be sensitive and avoid dressing in that way any longer. God would put this sensitivity in me and change my likes if I let Him. I was no longer to be an instrument to attract others attention or thoughts away from God to the earthly or sensual. Was I willing to lay self's likes, gained in the world, aside? God made me aware of the truths He was teaching me whenever I'd wear that controversial blouse or pants. God gave sufficient providential evidence that these particular clothes were defrauding. In a relatively short time I yielded to right, convinced God's way was best for me and others. Will I follow Christ was the issue. And God then clothed the inner me with divine contentedness and peace. Christ has the power to change us, only, as we cooperate with Him.

Now ladies, in the name of defrauding we do not

want to swing our dress style from too tight and too small to the other extreme - to baggy, untidy, unclean or unattractive attire. That won't please God either. These changes toward greater modesty and purity do not eliminate taste, order and properly fitting attire. We must find and maintain a balance pleasing to God. It was awesome to me to see my responsibility here. Please read 1T 464 and AH 254 for confirmation here.

Proper Dress Characterized

"No one precise style has been given me as the exact rule to guide all in their dress ... The old health reform dress in its exact pattern was no longer urged, but there was ever a **uniform testimony** borne by Mrs. White regarding the **fundamental principles** that should guide the Christian in this matter ... Let our sisters dress plainly, as many do, having the dress of good material, durable, modest, appropriate for this age, and let not the dress question fill the mind." 1T 718 and ML 145.

"Christians should not take pains to make themselves gazing stock by dressing differently from the world. But if, when following out their convictions of duty in respect to dressing modestly and healthful, they find themselves out of fashion, they should not change their dress in order to be like the world; but they should manifest a noble independence and moral courage to be right, if all the world differ from them. If the world introduces a modest, convenient, and healthful mode of dress, which is in accordance with the Bible, it will not change our relation to God or to the world to adopt such a style of dress. Christians should follow Christ and make their dress conform to God's word. They should shun extremes. They should humbly pursue a straightforward course, irrespective of applause or of censure, and should cling to the right because of its own merits." 1T 458.

Christ is always leading us to a balance, isn't He? As we seek to know God's will through personal study and prayer, God will be right there to guide the sincere in heart to find the answer. For example, God desires to keep us balanced even in the length of our dresses. We read counsel against 2 extremes here. "My views were calculated to correct the present fashion, the extreme long dress, trailing upon the ground, and also to correct the extreme short dress, reaching about to the knees, which is worn by a certain class. I was shown that we should shun both extremes." 1T 464. I encourage you to study

to find the balance to any questions you may now have in the specifics of proper heavenly dress and God will be with you.

Remember, if indeed my inward veiling is Christ, then my outward dress will not be defrauding, showy, with pride or display. Rather it will reflect Christ through modesty, cleanliness, neatness, orderliness, tastefulness and simplicity all in accordance with the revealed light given in the Bible. I am accountable for the light I know or could have known. I will seek God's will to **rule** my life which inclines my tastes in clothing. And God promises to change my wrong tastes as I submit and yield to His will and grace to work in me. See 4T 631. I chose to bring all my clothing before Christ for His approval, and instructions in what is best and right for me. Then God can shine through me manifesting Christ's purity to the world, as well as encouraging others who are truly walking in the way. Is that what you want to do? This inward desire motivated me to "Study to show thyself approved, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15. I read God's word to bring my dress in conformity to His will. I read to see what God says to me personally and not man's interpretations that explain away a plain thus saith the Lord. Choosing to follow God, requires being grounded in His Word myself, and not traditions, customs or the fashions of the day. How did this work for me?

Pants and Women

As I read Deut. 22:5 it said, "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." This is so plain a truth and easy to understand. But when I took off my slacks and pants to wear simple dresses and skirts to be the lady God called me to be, much animosity and agitation was aroused in some of my Christian sisters that were close to me. Yet I wasn't pushing or even encouraging others to do the same, just quietly following God myself. In fact several counseled me with arguments and excuses why this no longer applies today. Yet in my mind God kept impressing upon me, "I am the same yesterday, today and forever." So I sought the Lord's will in prayer and further study. In doing this I was impressed in prayer and confirmed in studies that my course was God's will for me and I was to follow God in this thus saith the Lord and not to follow man or man's reasoning. I read 1T 421 which said, "There is an increasing tendency to have women in their dress and appearance

as near like the other sex as possible, and to fashion their dress very much like that of men, but God pronounces it abomination. Let us rather be women adorned in modest apparel with shamefacedness and sobriety." It still applies to us today. I then must ask myself, are those sleek Levi's or form fitting dress pants, God's will for women or for me? Or what about the sloppy, baggy pants, are they depicting of neatness, orderliness and purity? We must continually ask Acts 9:6, "Lord what would thou have **me** to do?"

Surely some will ask. Is there no place for slacks? My response is let us give each other room to grow in Christ. I encourage my sisters to seek counsel from God rather than man. And go to **study** with a heart willing to learn for ourselves and avoid excusing self or condemning that sister who doesn't hold the exact same perspective as mine. Go to see what God would have **me** to do. Instead of condemning or entering needless controversy with one another let us bring each other before the throne of grace for Christ to work in each of our hearts and lives today. Remember that God is working with each of us, let us be patient with each other. If Jesus be our **Lord**, let us follow Him and leave all free to decide the particulars of this issue in their own consciences before God.

Let us remember that the temptation to follow the dress of the opposite sex applies also to men. Men, you must also evaluate your closet with God. There is jewelry, earrings, scarves, feminine hair styles and unclad attire fostered by fashion to men today. Let us all be aware and guard against the leaven of serving **self** that is within, and worldly fashion that is from without. Let us make haste to seek God's will for all of us and follow Him whithersoever He leadeth us in our dress.

Yes, it is sad to see a woman professing Christianity, yet in her dress defrauding or appearing in man's clothing. But how much more sad it is to see a woman professing Christianity dressed in proper attire, texture and look, yet naked of the inner virtue of Christ! Naked of power over self! Her speech of harshness, gossip or her critical spirit reveals her **nakedness** of Christ and its so unbecoming of her. The worst is the misrepresenting of Christ, whom she is claiming to represent. Her outward dress gives a Christ-like appearance while her words and deportment deny Him. If we are going to properly influence others, we need to have both the inner and the outer clothing depicting Christ's righteousness and purity!

Let us realize and consider these words. "To

many **the externals** are the sum total of religion and yet it will be evidenced that the heart has not genuine courtesy which alone is of value with God." TM 196. Let it be said of us that our externals give true evidence of the **indwelling Christ** clothing us.

Fashions

Worldly fashion can lead to defrauding through not just the obvious issues of bosom-bearing, shape accentuating, and short skirt fashions all too commonly seen in "professed" Christian's dress today. But let us look a little closer. Does not the fashion of "baggy fitting style" today allow men a peek down your loose neck blouses, up your baggy sleeves, or at your short styled mid-drifts? Can not this defraud and stir up men's base passions just as much as the former mentioned styles? Sure it can! Satan's cunning must be seen for what it truly is, for he uses fashion successfully to crucify Christ's character and to destroy us and others, within and without.

A second aspect of fashion. "Let not fashion consume our time and means. How many of them who follow fashion should be declared immodest; inappropriate for a refined, God fearing, self-respecting woman." MH 290. See also 4T 647 and R&H Nov 17, 1904.

Is not spending **much time** pouring through profuse numbers of catalogs, sales or not, that come into our homes against God's will? Do you see that the profuse catalogs in our homes are just **in home shopping malls**? And sale catalogs, are more like outlet stores coming right into our homes. These are **all** calculated to steal our last ounce of time and means and keep us from spending that needed time with Christ in prayer or reading our Bibles. Or how about walking the malls looking for just the right color shoes to match a new color just added to our already bulging closets. Are these not equally a shameful use of our time and means? Do we really **need** more? Has the use of our time and means been filtered through Christ for His approval? We must ask ourselves seriously - why are there so many shopping malls and department stores in America? Why are there so many mini storage buildings? Do we not gather too much to ourselves, even beyond our **needs**? We must ask again Acts 9:6.

Do you see Satan's purposes and intentions here? He has obviously taken the world captive. It's so common place! God's people need to be warned. **Fashion** is ever keeping our time and means occupied or consumed. It's ever changeableness encour-

ages us to gather unto ourselves far beyond true needs. Satan wants to keep us **so busy** in selfish shopping pursuits, just until it's **too late** to obtain salvation, to have enough time to learn how to **put on Christ**, in place of **putting on fashion**? What would John the Baptist's life say to our excess? Yes, it is a rebuke friends, but oh his life is a needed rebuke to lovingly awaken us to Satan's sophistries at work for our destruction now and eternally. Let us say thank you to John's life, waking us up to choose to live according to principle and no longer to fashion! Let us repent and say in all honesty, "Lord forgive me, I now see it clearly. By grace I want my closet to reflect Christ from this day forward. Show me the errors of my ways and teach me to trust and follow you. I choose to put on Christ and let You rule over me as my Lord and Saviour of the inner me first, so that by grace, the outer me shall reflect Christ more fully."

With a repentance and commitment like this, our closets will change and represent "divine" self-denial effectually working in us. What might that closet look like? I see a few favorite choice colors that coordinate well. Careful planning and close differentiating between wants and needs are characterized in this wardrobe for each season. I see about 3 or 4 work blouses, 3 dress blouses, 3 everyday blouses. A modest number of skirts to meet the varying needs of their life but not excessive. A few well chosen dresses, again to meet true needs and not wants. Self denial is characterized. This is plenty isn't it? You'll find that even with this simple, modest wardrobe it will take three or more years to wear them out. Amazing isn't it? You know Americans don't wear out their clothes today, its more customary to just grow tired of them, for there are so many. This discipline simplified my life considerable. All the time I had wasted **wearily gathering** unto myself the excessive indulging of my closet. What a burden it was and you know I was never really satisfied with more. Could some of you, even live in a smaller home and live well on a smaller income if you applied this principle? Once this modest wardrobe is established, the only shopping necessary is to replace an article of clothing here and there when it wears out. How simple this is! Simplify, simplify, simplify - what a blessing in conforming to God's ways.

In redeeming this time, I then spent more time with my Lord and Saviour in His Word, in prayer and contemplation how He can redeem me further. This wise use of my time allows God to transform my heart from self serving to godliness. Here is where

God dresses the inner and the outer me with Christ. His meek and quiet spirit will be evident to all that I have met with Jesus today. "God is the author of all true beauty, and **only** as we conform to His ideal, shall we approach the standard of true beauty." MH 292. With Christ indwelling and leading, we are beautiful in thought, word, deed and dress. Thank you Lord for freeing me from the drudgery of fashion. Oh What Love!

I recall vividly the joy I had when I began to see this true beauty Christ wished to put in me, as I would consent to cooperate and commune with Him. I longed to put on Christ. He asked me to cooperate by reforming my closet, by practicing self-denial, by turning away decidedly from wrong habits and learn to receive reproof and corrections. I joyfully went to make the necessary changes in my closet. The indwelling Christ gave me power and grace to conform outwardly in this changing process. I took Jesus with me and He looked at each article with approval or disapproval. I was filled with a strong sense of responsibility and desire from Him to please God and not man. Some areas were easy to put off and others were hard. In one instance it proved a struggle with self as the Lord chose to use my husband to reveal His will for me. Self did not want to die! Know what I mean? I found time with God changed and subdued the inner me, and sooner or later even my emotions and tastes were changed to purer styles. Truly subjection to God and my God led husband proved to be restoration to myself. My God was now Saviour and Lord of my wardrobe. What a joy is the peace that God makes evident through us when we surrender and let Him change our hearts and lives.

Cotton Fibers

How important are the fibers of my clothing in my Christian walk? Is cotton the only fiber heaven approves? I dare to say "no." If you want to wear cotton, wear cotton. But recognize cotton cannot be made the test of whether we are a Christian; no more than speaking in tongues verifies our connection with Christ. While there are some real physical advantages to wearing natural clothing fibers that breath, let us realize cotton is only one of several fibers that do breath and still meet heaven's standards. What we need to see is that cotton will not save us, whereas putting on Christ can save us!

Now breathing is important! But how much more essential and vital for the life and health of our body, mind and especially our soul is the "breath of Christ!" How much more important it is to learn how to have

a living, vital connection and communion with Christ so that our souls can breathe heaven's **life-giving** atmosphere of grace. Without this essential, continual, abiding of Christ in us, we have no life, no breathe to walk the walk of right doing. I want us to see how much more essential this is than the issue of wearing only cotton! Cotton good though it is cannot save me from my sin, nor can its covering earn me my entrance to heaven. It cannot change my character. Christ in me can save me from my sins. Christ has gained for me His robe of righteousness, which is of heavenly made fibers, not one thread of human devising. He has also gained entrance to heaven and will bring me in with Him, if I yield self and let Him clothe me. This robe is mine, **if** I learn to cooperate in implicit obedience and learn how to put on Christ fully. In this covering there can be no "man made fibers" of selfishness. Here is where we must examine ourselves closely and these selfish fibers must be given up and Christ's fibers of union, communion and right doing by grace replace them. Let us not judge one another by what fibers we wear outwardly. Let not cotton consume our time, means and thoughts. But rather let Christ be the center and focus. What is the danger if we do judge by the outward fibers? A biblical principle found in Matthew 23:24-26 says, "Like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." So we can be in our dress! I see a pretty little girl beautifully arrayed in cotton clothing to the tip of her hair with a lovely bow. She sits in church quietly **until** her will is crossed. Then we see disrespectful looks, words and actions. Lying, argumentative, uncooperative lips betray the unrestrained selfishness that lies within her inner heart. Is she dressed to the glory of God or is she **naked** of Christ? She is naked of Christ. The outward was professing purity, the inward was lacking. Am I saying not to dress our children in this way? No! We ought to do this, but not leave the other undone. This all too common scene brings pain to every sincere Christian's heart, especially the conscientious parents. Now I commend the mother for the effort necessary in presenting her child in simplicity, modesty and cleanliness outwardly. But we cannot leave the teaching and training of the will, nor the inward adorning of Christ neglected or undone ... can we?

We as parents must personally understand, experience and exemplify the how to's of yielding our wills to Christ before we can teach our children's minds and train their wills in these vital basics of how

to be clothed with the life from Christ which will enable them to live aright and dress aright. Let our outward clothing be an out flowing of the inward clothing of Christ. Enthroned Christ and dress comes in line.

I entreat you to follow Christ and not man, in order to determine what changes God is calling you to make today, be that in what fibers of clothing you put on your external bodies, or any aspect of dressing for Jesus. This decision must come from God, His Word and you in the secret chambers of your prayer life. But I strongly admonish you to without delay, seek to let Christ live in you, this is the weightier matter and this will lead you in your search for true heavenly outward and inward adorning. If this inward is missing or neglected, all outward dress is **vanity** and not pleasing to God. God wants our whole heart. We **need** Christ to indwell us, to influence and redeem our inner selves first, in order for us to be enabled to put on Christ externally. The modest, life-giving robe of right doing. Our character is our robe and it must be examined daily, whether every fiber of my life is of God or of self. Who is our Lord? This is indeed the weightier matter of the law, is it not? This must be done and not leave the other matters undone. I caution you to follow God and not man, custom or tradition in this vital issue of life. What fibers or ways of my Christian walk need to be replaced by the fibers or ways of heaven's order? Does anger or irritation rule over me in my dealings with my spouse, child or friend? These fibers or ways of selfishness can and must be replaced by Christ's new nature ruling in wisdom, love and self-control. This is the real question to be asked regarding what fibers shall I wear.

Dear friends let us consider the cost of this inner beauty, rest and peace which God longs to put in us. It is purchased with our time, communion with God, and the right action of our will in surrendering to God's way and will, above my selfish inclinations. This full heart surrender requires both hearing and doing. It requires more time than we realize, so let us commence immediately to "redeem our time for the days are evil." It is the best investment of our time and means for now and eternity. Let us **put on Christ** in our inner man or woman, that Christ's beauty may be manifested in truth to all around us by what we wear, what we say, and what we do. This is proclaiming a risen Saviour in my life. To God be this glory for He can redeem us from the pit and drudgery of fashion and custom through Christ. God has left the choice with us. What will you do?

A Voice From The Wilderness

Simplicity in Dress

SR&H 89-90 - November 17, 1904

Fashion rules the world. She is a tyrannical mistress, often compelling her devotees to the greatest inconvenience and discomfort. Fashion taxes without reason and collects without mercy. She has a fascinating power, and stands ready to criticize and ridicule the poor, if they do not follow in her wake at any cost, even at the sacrifice of life itself. Satan triumphs that his devices succeed so well, and Death laughs at the health-destroying folly and blind zeal of the worshipers at Fashion's shrine.

Not a few of our people are backsliding. They are imitating the fashions of the world. Their spirituality is dying. Step by step they are approaching world-loving. Selfishness and pride are taking possession of them, and the love of God finds little room in their hearts. Some who were once zealous reformers are now indifferent. Sisters who were once plain in dress are now conforming to fashion. God expects His commandment-keeping people to be distinct from worldlings, but in many instances the line of demarcation is hardly discernible.

As I have seen those of our faith becoming worldly, my heart has been saddened. Some of those who profess to believe that they have the last message of mercy to give to the world, follow the fashions as far as they think their profession of faith will allow them to do. And their influence leads others astray. Their lack of Christlikeness is apparent to all. The Lord is dishonored by their conformity to the fashions of this degenerate age. Outward display is contradictory to our profession of faith. I entreat my sisters to guard against the tendency to dress in accordance with the demands of fashion.

Many of the mother's burdens are the result of her effort to keep pace with the fashions of the day. Terrible is the effect of these fashions on the physical, mental, and moral health. Lacking the courage to stand firm for the right, women allow the current of popular feeling to draw them on in its wake. Much precious time is devoted to needless stitching and ruffling, to add to the outward adorning. Children are robbed of the time that should be devoted to gaining for them the beauty of holiness - the inward adorning, which, in the sight of God, is of great price.

In order to follow fashion, many of our youth incur expenses that are out of proportion to their

condition in life. Children of poor parents endeavor to dress as do those who are wealthy. Parents tax their purses and their God-given time and strength in making and remodeling clothing to satisfy their children's vanity. If our sisters who have an abundance of means would regulate their expenditures by their responsibility to God, as wise stewards of the means entrusted to them; their example would do much to stay this evil now existing among us. Souls whom they might have helped by letting their light shine in good works, are strengthened in unbelief by their inconsistent course.

Mothers can not be slaves to fashion and at the same time exert a sanctifying influence in the home. Too often professedly Christian mothers sacrifice principle to their desire to follow the multitude who make fashion their god. Conscience protests, but they are not brave enough to take a decided stand against the wrong.

Many of our sisters willingly bear the unnecessary burden of conformity to worldly dress. Attempting to follow the fashions, their burdens are greatly increased, yet they willingly bear the yoke, because they worship the goddess of fashion.

It is not only the privilege, but the duty of every one to increase daily in the knowledge of God and the truth. Satan's object is gained if he can invent something that will so attract the mind that God will be forgotten, and he uses fashion with great success to do this. He knows that women who constantly have a feverish desire to follow the fashions, have benumbed their moral sensibilities, and do not realize their real spiritual condition. Worldly minded, they are without God, without hope. They take no time to pray, or to search the Scriptures in order that they may understand the truth, and teach it to their children.

When I have seen Christian women leading out in temperance campaigns, presenting to liquor inebriates a pledge to abstain from all intoxicating drinks, I have thought that it would also be well for them to present to every Christian woman a pledge to abstain from all needless display and extravagance in dress. By dressing simply, thus saving time and means, Christian women can do much to help the temperance cause. The means thus saved will clothe the destitute, feed the hungry, and will help to close the door against liquor drinking. Those who are simple in dress have time to visit the afflicted, and to pray with and for them. On all Christians rest a solemn duty to economize, that they may be better able to help those in need.

We do not discourage neatness in dress. Correct taste is not to be despised nor condemned. Our faith, if carried out, will lead us to be so plain in dress, and zealous of good works, that we shall be marked as peculiar. But when we lose taste for order and neatness in dress, we virtually leave the truth; for the truth never degrades, but elevates. When believers are neglectful of their dress, and are coarse and rough in their manners, their influence hurts the truth. "We are," said the inspired apostle, "made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men." I Corinthians 4:9. All heaven is marking the daily influence that the professed followers of Christ exert upon the world. My sisters, your dress is telling either in favor of Christ and the sacred truth or in favor of the world. Which is it? Remember that we must all answer to God for the influence we exert.

Simplicity of dress will make a sensible woman appear to the best advantage. We judge of a person's character by the style of dress worn. A modest, godly woman will dress modestly. A refined taste, a cultivated mind, will be revealed in the choice of a simple, appropriate attire. The young women who break away from the slavery of fashion will be ornaments of society. The one who in simple and unpretending in her dress and in her manners shows that she understands that a true woman is characterized by moral worth. How charming, how interesting, is simplicity in dress, which in comeliness can be compared with the flowers of the field!

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