

# Bride Trousers

*'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.'* Deuteronomy 22:5

**Instead of introduction.** Few things do surprise us today. We expect different surprises, news. And maybe we won't be surprised to see a bride wearing trousers, defying the classic picture with which we are accustomed. Considering the tendencies from our times in fashion, we are not far from such a phenomenon which could become a fashion.

**Context.** The urge from the verse is framed with other advices concerning daily problems, situations when the believer had to know how to behave (ex. Finding a lost thing, protection for the roof etc). There is not specified that only in some situations this principle should be respected, like the public worship, so it's valid for every occasion.

**Text analysis.**<sup>1</sup> Wearing dresses / skirts *only* in the church is inconsistent with the deuteronomic principle, because the context, as we saw, does not permit us to limit the application to the worship place. So, if this principle it's not understood today as it was some time ago (and not so far), then the wearing of 'ladies trousers' should be allowed also in the church. Whenever a spiritual leader is angry that the sisters are coming in the church wearing trousers and he is trying to rebuke, if his wife wears trousers in the other days of the week, in different circumstances, somebody could tell him a strong argument to stop being angry on others: even his wife does not obey the Word because she applies it just when she is coming to the church (and we have to be christians seven days a week not only on the seventh). So he should rebuke the first his wife and then the other sisters. The non-observance of this principle is a 'help' to remove any difference between the children of God and the world, concerning clothes.

**Does it mean that all the persons who do not respect this difference in clothing are worldly, not children of God?**

The individual preparation to receive the divine light is not the same for everybody, and God does not reveal to everybody in the same time the same things. For this reason we have to be careful and not to judge the spiritual level of somebody according to their respecting of this ray of light. Maybe that person had not the occasion to listen a clear and wise and complete presentation of the subject. But it's sad that many went so far in their resembling with the worldly people in many points that even the most eloquent presentation of the subject, blessed by the Holy Spirit, won't convince them to follow God's will:

**'The perception and appreciation of truth**, He said, depends less upon the mind than upon the heart. Truth must be received into the soul; it claims the homage of the will. If truth could be submitted to the reason alone, pride would be no hindrance in the way of its reception. But it is to be received through the work of grace in the heart; and **its reception depends upon the renunciation of every sin that the Spirit of God reveals**. Man's advantages for obtaining a knowledge of the truth, however great these may be, will prove of **no benefit to him unless the heart is open to receive the truth, and there is a conscientious surrender of every habit and practice that is opposed to its principles**. To those who thus yield themselves to God, having an **honest desire to know and to do His will**, the truth is revealed as the power of God for their salvation. **These will be able to distinguish between him who speaks for God, and him who speaks merely from himself. The Pharisees had not put their will on the side of God's will. They were not seeking to know the truth, but to find some excuse for evading it; Christ showed that this was why they did not understand His teaching.**' DA 455

***But there are not social context differences in comparison with the nineteenth century ?***

After one century the world is different. But morally speaking, the change is not positive but, as the prophecy is saying, there is a bigger resembling with Sodom and Gomorah. Concerning clothing we can say that the society is

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<sup>1</sup> The whole application from this material is made especially for the european and american geographical area. In the arabian countries, for example, probably it's necessary a different application, the principle remaining the same, of course.

going to take off the clothes more and more, until it will touch an acme, having nothing more to take off. (And in some places this thing it's happening)

If we are thinking about the conditions we have today to live the Word, they are better. But we face the worldly spirit who consider a craziness to live the Word. And, with our laodicean spirituality we don't have the courage to fight with the worldly spirit.

Sometimes people are trying to show the difficulties involved in practicing the deuteronomic principle in our contemporary society. We should be ashamed to come with such arguments. One reason, it's said, is the protection against the cold. Let's think about the people who lived in the 1800. They had worst **conditions to protect themselves than we have today (just think about their traveling at long distances)**. We are so blessed and we should obey God today with all our hearts, with all our bodies.

Another reason mentioned is about the work conditions. But we should remember that in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the work was **harder** (working the land without the modern tools we have). Also, most of the jobs for women today are in warm places (offices, hospitals, schools, factories etc) not outside, as it was in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A word very loved by many Christians today by which they are trying to demolish any trace of separation between them and the world, is the **culture**. And this word is mentioned with the satisfaction of those who are thinking that they discovered the most powerful argument. It's true that culture has its influence, but the biblical principles are the same. Culture affects also dressing of the believers. It affects the **style**. About this Ellen White said that it was not showed to her a precise style. Probably we shouldn't copy the styles from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the deuteronomic principle is still valid.

**Many dress like the world, to have an influence.** But here they make **a sad and fatal mistake**. If they would have a true and saving influence, let them live out their profession, show their faith by their righteous works, and make the distinction great between the Christian and the world. I saw that **the words, the dress, and actions should tell for God**. Then a holy influence will be shed upon all, and all will take knowledge of them that they have been with Jesus.' 1T 132

I saw that **the outside appearance is an index to the heart**. When the exterior is hung with ribbons, collars, and needless things, it plainly shows that the love for all this is in the heart; **unless such persons are cleansed from their corruption, they can never see God**, for only the pure in heart will see Him.

I saw that the ax must be laid at the root of the tree. Such pride should not be suffered in the church. **It is these things that separate God from His people, that shut the ark away from them**. Israel have been asleep to the pride, and fashion, and conformity to the world, in the very midst of them. They advance every month in pride, covetousness, selfishness, and love of the world. **When their hearts are affected by the truth, it will cause a death to the world**, and they will lay aside the ribbons, laces, and collars; and, if they are dead, the laugh, the jeer, and **scorn of unbelievers will not move them**. **They will feel an anxious desire to be separate from the world**, like their Master. **They will not imitate its pride, fashions, or customs...** God will have a people separate and distinct from the world. **And as soon as any have a desire to imitate the fashions of the world, that they do not immediately subdue, just so soon God ceases to acknowledge them as His children. They are the children of the world and of darkness.** ' 1T 135

### *Ellen White & The Deuteronomic Principle*

There is a big difference between the Remnant and the Remnant church. Though we can say that the SDA church is the Remnant church, it won't be saved according to the membership but only the Remnant will be saved. Why ? Because only the Remnant keeps the commandments and the testimony of Jesus – the Spirit of Prophecy (Revelation 19:10b). To be member in our church you can do less, you can be satisfied with less. But if you want to be in heaven ask yourself: am I part of the Remnant ? If not, what do I wait for?

It is important to understand the experience and the vision of this woman, through whom God revealed His will in a more detailed and clear way. And because there is only one century between the time she lived and the time we live, we have more informations, from sure sources. The testimony of this godly woman is precious, especially when we realize that tendencies to lower the standards in clothing were very strong then.

#### ***Should we comply with the changing fashion or not?***

'How shall we dress? If any wore heavy quilts before the introduction of hoops, merely for show and not for comfort, they sinned against themselves by injuring their health, which it is their duty to preserve. If any wear them

now merely to look like hoops, they commit sin; for they are seeking to imitate a fashion which is disgraceful. Corded skirts were worn before hoops were introduced. I have worn a light corded skirt since I was fourteen years of age, not for show but for comfort and decency. Because hoops were introduced I did not lay off my corded skirt for them. Shall I now throw it aside because the fashion of hoops is introduced? No; that would be carrying the matter to an extreme.' 1T 425

It's encouraging the example of this woman who laid her life under the authority of God's Word. And such people are needed today also.

There were two big extremes in the Ellen White's time which the believers had to avoid: a)the hoops (long dresses with circles) and b)the American Costume. About the first extreme it's easier to understand why God was against them: problem of hygiene (the dust from the sidewalk was swept with these very long dresses) and also a health problem (the heavy circles on hips). What about the other extreme, the American Costume which was considered by many a 'reform dress' ?

***Let's see what God had against the American Costume:***

'I saw that God's order has been reversed, and His special directions disregarded, by those who adopt the American costume. I was referred to 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.' God would not have His people adopt the so-called reform dress. It is immodest apparel, wholly unfitted for the modest, humble followers of Christ.

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.' 1T 457

'There is still another style of dress which is adopted by a class of **so-called dress reformers. They imitate the opposite sex as nearly as possible.** They wear the cap, pants, vest, coat, and boots, the last of which is the most sensible part of the costume. Those who adopt and advocate this style of dress carry the so-called dress reform to very objectionable lengths. **Confusion** will be the result. Some who adopt this costume may be correct in their general views upon the health question, but they would be instrumental in accomplishing vastly more good if they did not carry the matter of dress to such extremes.

In this style of dress garded. 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.' **God would not have His people adopt this style of dress.** It is not modest apparel, and is not at all fitting for modest, humble women who profess to be Christ's followers. **God's prohibitions are lightly regarded by all who advocate doing away with the distinction of dress between males and females.** The extreme position taken by soGod's order has been reversed and His special directions disreme dress reformers upon this subject cripples their influence.

God designed that there should be a **plain distinction between the dress of men and women**, and has considered the matter of sufficient importance to give explicit directions in regard to it; for the same dress worn by both sexes would cause confusion and great increase of crime.' 1T 459

'In wide contrast with this modest dress is the so-called **American costume, resembling very nearly the dress worn by men.** It consists of a vest, pants, and a dress resembling a coat and reaching about halfway from the hip to the knee. This dress I have opposed, from what has been shown me as in harmony with the word of God; while the other I have recommended as modest, comfortable, convenient, and healthful.' 1T 465

Could we say that Ellen White didn't know about the argument of that resembling between the dress worn by women and the dress worn by men ? Of course not. When we look at the pictures, like many say today, we can see a very clear difference between the American Costume and the dress worn by men in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. But this argument was not a reason for God to approve what happened.

***But when I work, how can I manage ?***

'The **dress** should reach somewhat below the top of the boot, but should be short enough to clear the filth of the sidewalk and street without being raised by the hand. A still **shorter dress** than this would be proper, convenient, and healthful for women when doing their **housework**, and especially for those who are obliged to perform **more or less out-of-door labor**. With this style of dress, one light skirt, or two at most, is all that is necessary, and this should be buttoned on to a waist, or suspended by straps.' 1T 461

***And in the winter ?***

'There is but **one woman in a thousand who clothes her limbs as she should.** Whatever may be the length of the **dress, their limbs should be clothed as thoroughly as are the men's.** This may be done by **wearing lined pants**, gathered into a band and fastened about the ankle, or made full and tapering at the bottom; and these should come

down **long enough to meet the shoe**. The limbs and ankles thus clothed are protected against a current of air. If the feet and limbs are kept comfortable with warm clothing, the circulation will be equalized, and the blood will remain pure and healthy because it is not chilled or hindered in its natural passage through the system.' 1T 460

'Jan. 29, 1867, we left Wright, and rode to Greenville, a distance of forty miles. It was **a severely cold day**, and we were glad to find a shelter from the cold and storm at Brother A. W. Maynard's. This dear family welcomed us to their hearts and to their home.' LS 174

***If I want to make some exercise how should I proceed ?***

'In regard to my wearing the short dress, I would say, I have but one short dress, which is **not more than a finger's length shorter than the dresses I usually wear**. I have worn this short dress occasionally. In the winter I rose early, and putting on my short dress, which did not require to be raised by my hands to keep it from dragging in the snow, **I walked briskly from one to two miles before breakfast**. I have worn it several times to the office, when obliged to walk through light snow, or when it was **very wet or muddy**. Four or five sisters of the Battle Creek church have prepared for themselves a short dress to wear while doing their **washing and house cleaning**. A short dress has not been worn in the streets of the city of Battle Creek, and has never been worn to meeting. 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**. By wearing the dress reaching about to the top of a woman's gaiter boot we shall escape the evils of the extreme long dress, and shall also shun the evils and notoriety of the extreme short dress.' 1T 464

***There should be uniformity concerning the style ?***

'In this the dress question was fully reviewed and further counsel given. A general pattern was recommended as embodying the principles revealed to Mrs White, and was referred to as "worthy of the name of the reform short dress". no particular pattern was revealed to her in vision, and, when discussing the matter at a latter date, Mrs White stated: {1T 717.6}

"Some have supposed that the very pattern given was the pattern that all were to adopt. This is not so. But something as simple as this would be the best we could adopt under the circumstances. **No one precise style has been given me as the exact rule to guide all in their dress**."--E. G. White letter 19, 1897. Quoted in the story of our health message, page 145.' 1T 718

***How is it possible a reform ?***

'Some who adopted the reform were not content to show **by example** the advantages of the dress, **giving, when asked, their reasons for adopting it**, and letting the matter rest there. **They sought to control others' conscience by their own**. If they wore it, others must put it on. They forgot that none were to be compelled to wear the reform dress.

It was not my duty to urge the subject upon my sisters. After presenting it before them as it had been shown me, I left them to their own conscience. Reformatory action is always attended with **sacrifice**. It demands that love of ease, selfish interest, and the lust of ambition be held in subjection to the principles of right. **Whoever has the courage to reform must encounter obstacles**. He will be opposed by the conservatism of those whose **business or pleasure** brings them in contact with the **votaries of fashion**, and who will lose caste by the change.' 4T 636

***Why is the reform rejected sometimes ?***

'... Still others, who were apparently the most zealous reformers, manifested a sad lack of order and neatness in their dress. It was not made according to the approved pattern.' 4T 637

***How much is it important the reform in dressing ?***

'Many who profess to believe the Testimonies live in neglect of the light given. The **dress reform** is treated by some with **great indifference** and by others with **contempt**, **because there is a cross attached to it**. **For this cross I thank God. It is just what we need to distinguish and separate God's commandment-keeping people from the world**. The dress reform answers to us as did the ribbon of blue to ancient Israel. **The proud, and those who have no love for sacred truth, which will separate them from the world, will show it by their works**.' 3T 171

***Finally, why are the pants unacceptable for women ?***

Remember Jesus' words : '... whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.' Matthew 5:28 Jesus didn't say: '... whosoever looketh on a man...' and this is not by chance. Speaking about sexual attraction, looking is specific to men and touching is specific to women. The women know that the way they are dressed makes them attractive for a man. For this reason many women are dressed in such a way to make the men to lust after them. The fashion creators are making the clothes knowing all these things to sell their products. But it's sad that God's children also are caught in the snare of the fashion.

The pants, worn by women, are attractive if they are tight. Otherwise they lose their 'efficiency'. And from this, the imagination of the unconverted is stirred (and it can lead him very far), and for God's child is a temptation of which he could be spared.

Somebody can say also that the skirts/dresses can be even more provoking than the pants and wearing the pants is less damaging. It's true but we shouldn't buy this kind of clothes. There are solutions to avoid this problem. In the same time all the good things can be perverted. It doesn't mean that we should get rid of them. It's important to understand the principle and to apply it in a right way.

When somebody loves the compromise he will find ways out. But the compromise is not a solution but a treachery to our Savior. Him who loves God and who counts everything which is not according to His will a loss for Christ (Phillipians 3:7,8), he will find solutions to be in harmony with heaven.

People are talking a lot about a deterioration of the relations between men and women. The women are complaining that the men want them only for the physical relation, and finally not even for this. Mary Quant, one of the best designers from Great Britain, who promotes the mini-skirts, declared: 'If your clothes won't make you observed by others, you spent your money in vain... Good taste is death, vulgarity is life... Which is the purpose of the fashion, where does it lead ? SEX.' A woman who is dressing herself to show her forms and the sexual attractiveness will encourage the men to treat her as a sex-object.

According to the 'fish' you want to catch you will use the right angling rod. (you determine the others for what they should appreciate you). And if you sow the wind you will reap whirlwind (Hosea 8:7). 'Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; **but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!**' Matthew 18:7

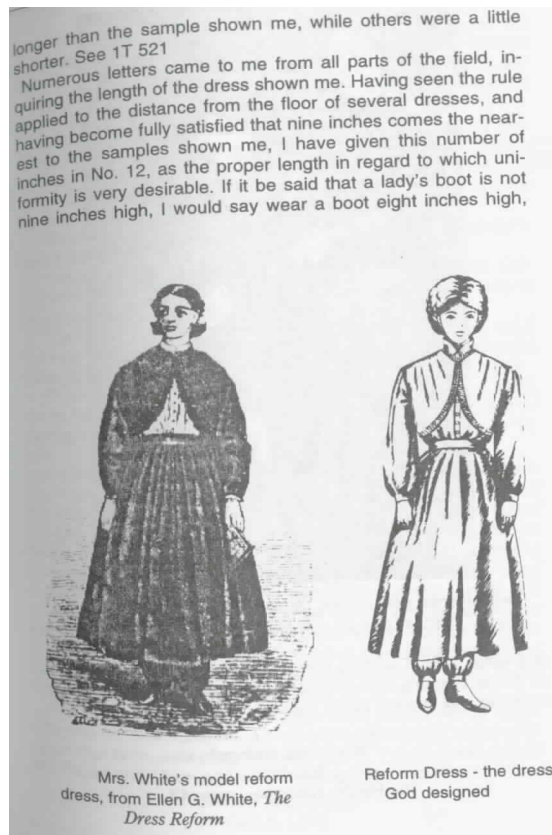
The invitation made by God to you is to be a **princess** in this world. The choice you will make concerning the living of the Word can bring to you a lot of blessings or if you will choose to quarrel with the Word, it will make Christ, angels and others to pity on you. Put in the balance the price paid by Jesus for you and pray for the courage to be a special child of God in these last moments of grace for all of us.

***'And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.'* Ezekiel 9:4**

***'For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God ... and had feared other gods, and walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.'* 2 Kings 17:7,8,15**

You can read more testimonies from Christians who understand this topic in the same way following this link:

<http://www.remnantraiment.com/testimonials.htm>



This is an actual photograph of the American Costume worn by Dr. Austin in 1851. Dr. Harriet N. Austin designed this outfit as a variation of the "Bloomer" outfit and renamed it the American Costume.

"We shall never imitate Miss Dr. Austin or Mrs. Dr. York. They dress very much like men. We shall institute a fashion which will be both economical and healthy.

Letter to Brother and Sister Lockwood  
 Sept. 1864  
 (Review & Herald, May 1944)  
 EGW

"Those who feel called out to join the movement in favor of women's rights and the so-called dress reform [dress reform movement to have women dress like men] might as well sever all connection with the Third Angel's Message." 1T 457

Photograph of Dr. Mary Walker in "American Costume"



This is another version of the "American Costume."  
 "They have all styles of dress here. (Dansville, New York [A health institute where the American Costume was worn], some very becoming if not so short. We shall get patterns from this place and I think we can get a style of dress more healthful than they wear and yet not be Bloomer or the American Costume." From a letter to Brother and Sister Lockwood, Sept., 1864, *Review and Herald*, May 4, 1944, E. G. W.  
 NOTE: The Lord later gave the "Reform" or "Short" dress to replace the woolly reform dress. It is similar, but the dress much longer over the pants.

These pictures are from the book

*Thy Nakedness – Lord, What Shall I Wear ?*, by Gwen & Rick Shorter, Homeward Publishing, Earlton, NY, 1997





*Backpacking as a family has been one of the blessings of living in the mountains.*



*Sally and Jim making time for family fun.*

## Wedding Dresses New fashion vs Classical Style





***POSITIVE EXAMPLES  
MODEST CHRISTIAN DRESS***

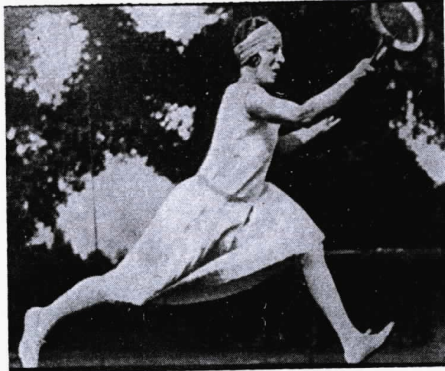
*(most of the pictures are from the following websites <http://www.liliesapparel.com>, <http://www.modestclothing.com> ). For more examples and links you can check this website: <http://www.remnantraiment.com/links.htm>*







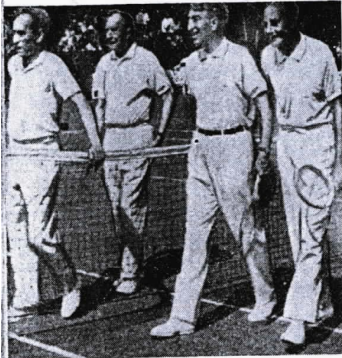
There was a time when people felt that they don't need unisex clothing to be able to move very easy, even in the professional sports...



Suzanne I

„Big Bill” Tilden, în plină glorie

Cei 4 mușchetari, trecuți de prima tinerețe :  
H. Cochet, J. Borotra, R. Lacoste,  
J. Brugnon

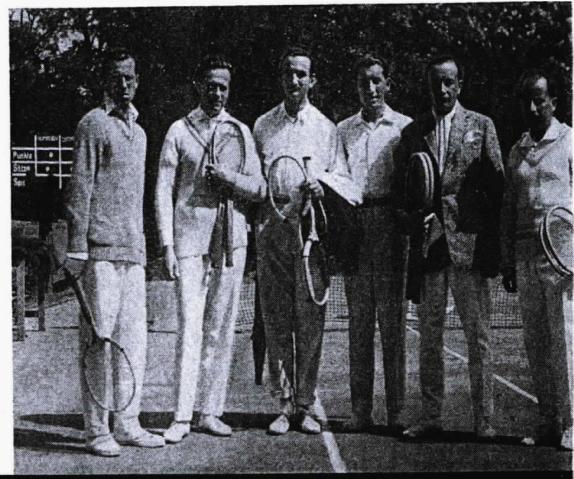


Așa juca Perry I



Sabina Bărbulescu, una din primele „amazoane” ale tenisului nostru (campionă națională 1913-1921)

Grup de campioni români din perioada interbelică : G. Poulieff, R. Roman, N. Mișu, I. Bunea, A. San Galli, Gh. Lupu



Diploma Olimpiadei de la Paris 1924, purtând semnătura președintelui C.I.O. Pierre de Coubertin, decernată căpitanului echipei de tenis a României, Mircea Iconomu.



Participanții unui concurs desfășurat la Arad, în 1928. În rîndul din față se recunosc (de la stînga) : Nini Goleșcu, Florica Ștefănescu, R. Roman, Gh. Lupu, A. San Galli, L. Dörner, Lenke Popper



Nicolae Mișu, între doi redutabili adversari, americani Bill Tilden și Fred Hunter. În autograful său, dedicat campionului român, Tilden scria : „Lui Nick, genialul artist al demi-voleului...”





## ***UNISEX CLOTHING***

Look at the following pictures and ask yourself where is the clear distinction between the women and men's clothing, distinction required by God in His word?

