

Clothes

Ponder: What should I wear?

Scripture: "Let your garments always be white, and let your head lack no oil" (Eccl. 9:8, NKJV).

People have worn clothing ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the garden. Sin, by its very nature, produces shame; nakedness became shameful then as well. God mercifully provided adequate clothes to replace the fig leaf garments Adam and Eve made. From then until now, various cultures have worn different types of clothing.

No doubt some people place far too much emphasis on impressive clothing. Among the things Achan stole from the spoils of Jericho was a beautiful garment imported from Babylon (Josh. 7:21). Unlike today, imported garments back then would likely be of excellent quality and prohibitively expensive.

While James admonishes us not to pass judgment on people based on the quality of their clothes (Jas. 2:1-4), the fact remains that certain clothing can make a statement about you. Solomon mentions "the attire of a harlot" (Prov. 7:10). He doesn't specify exactly what characteristics indicated the wearer was a harlot, but people in his day would certainly have known. A modern vice squad has no trouble identifying the attire of a harlot.

Today's Scripture extols white garments. We should recognize that Solomon's concern wasn't with the physical color of one's clothing, but the purity of the person based on their behavior and their relationship with God. Of the faithful few in the Sardis church Jesus said, "they shall walk with Me in white" (Rev. 3:4). They had not defiled their garments by slacking up in their service. Can you and I say the same?

Rev. 7:14 pictures a multitude who remained faithful despite persecution as having "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb." Ordinarily we wouldn't think of making garments white by washing them in blood! But Revelation is highly symbolic, and here again the whiteness pertains to people's behavior and relationship to God, not the literal color of their literal clothing.

John praised Jesus, who "loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Rev. 1:5). If you've been washed in His blood, so have your clothes!

Hymn: "Are You Washed In The Blood Of The Lamb?"

Prayer: Father, we thank you for Jesus and His blood that washes us and makes our garments white. In His name, Amen.