

## OUR APPEARANCE

### The appearance of our body

Jehovah was concerned about how his people looked as well as how they acted. He wanted them to look civilized and dignified. One result of America forsaking God and choosing to be pagan is how the people began making themselves look more like freaks and barbarians.

One command God gave says, **“Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, nor shall thou mar the corners of thy beard. Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you. I am Jehovah”** (Leviticus 19:27-28).

What the command about the corners of their heads and beards no doubt means is that God did not want his chosen people to have fancy beards or fancy hair cuts. Barbarians do such things, and Jehovah wanted his people to look civilized and dignified. Some Jewish men have misinterpreted that command, so they let their sideburns grow long and hang down in curls. It certainly does not look dignified; it makes them look more like women.

God commanded the sons of Israel not to put things such as tattoos, body paint, or carvings on their skin. All such things are barbaric and demeaning. God wanted his people to look civilized and dignified. It is in times of spiritual decadence when such things become popular. Therefore, in the last few years they have become very popular in America. Indeed, I suspect the majority of young Americans now have one or more tattoos on their bodies, women included. Not long ago I also saw, with sorrow, a photograph of the president of Harding University, a Christian institution where I once taught, with a painted figure on his face.

Another command in the law about appearance concerned the clothing they wore. It says, **“A woman shall not wear that which pertains to a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment, for whoever does these things is an abomination to Jehovah thy God”** (Deuteronomy 22:5). Not many years ago this was rarely a problem anywhere in the world. However, since the rise of the women’s rebellion called feminism it is now exceedingly common to see women dressed exactly like men.

It remains rare to see a man dressed in traditional women’s clothing. Men who dress like women are still called female impersonators (now called transvestites, a less “judgmental” label). Although still rare, I regret to say that they are growing in number. In contrast, the average woman in America now dresses like a man, even Christian women. They are male impersonators, but nobody else I have ever heard dares call them that.

Whenever I speak with fellow Christians about it, they dismiss this command as no longer applicable, and they consider me to be a crank. They say matters of right and wrong about clothing are determined by the standards of the world and not by the word of God. They are as wrong about that as saying none of the ten commandments are applicable.

Since the rise of feminism there has been a great erosion of the distinctions between men and women. Many women now have very short hair no different in appearance to many men, and there are men whose hair is long enough to fall well below their shoulders, even to their waist. There are men now who wear facial jewelry, and women with tattoos on their bodies.

I have seen married couples where the man acted like the wife and mother, while the woman acted like the husband and father. Indeed, most women in America now lead their men around like horses with an invisible bridle. Open your eyes and look: the woman leads while the man follows. They even have baby changing facilities in many men's public toilets so men can perform the role of mothers. That would have been considered an insult during more righteous times.

Consequently, America is fast becoming a matriarchal society, like that of our Negro subculture. The Bible strictly commands the subservience of women to men. Equality of men and women is a delusion. Taking away the God given rights of men, and giving women equal rights in all things, just sets the stage for female dominance. God knows exactly what he is doing and why he commands things he does. What modern men no longer realize is that women have always ruled men from the time of birth until at least adolescence. That is the most important developmental period in life. Therefore, women have enormous power to manipulate and shape the tender minds of children.

Unless children learn very early in life that women are subservient to men, they become conditioned to be subject to women at all ages. That seems to be how matriarchal societies develop. And matriarchal societies are destructive perversions. The rise of lawless teenage gangs in America is one of their bitter fruits. Homosexuality is another one. Men treating other men like women, and men acting like women. It is a terrible perversion of sexual identity, and it is rapidly growing in number, acceptance, and influence. It is a spiritual plague that will destroy any country that tolerates it.

I quote below the words of one well-known nineteenth century commentary written by Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown about the passage Deuteronomy 22:5. Their commentary was published in 1871, and here is what they said:

... the adoption of the habiliments of the one sex by the other is an outrage on decency, obliterates the distinctions of nature by fostering softness and effeminacy in the man, impudence and boldness in the woman as well as levity and hypocrisy in both; and, in short, it opens the door to an influx of so many evils that all who wear the dress of another sex are pronounced "an abomination unto the Lord."

Those men were exactly correct. The men of that generation had much more wisdom in spiritual matters than men of this one. It grieves my soul to see such spiritual degradation these days. When I was much younger I marveled at the perverse way some people of different countries dressed. They painted their faces, had disheveled and unkempt hair, put bones

through their noses, wore gaudy and extravagant apparel, tattooed their bodies, went almost naked, loved violence and other such barbarous things. We called them savages. I never dreamed those things would become popular in America. The paraphernalia used is more modern, but the basic behavior is still savagery.

Dear reader, be not blinded by the popular perversions of the world. Study the holy scriptures to find what God loves and what he hates. Then adjust your way of living to please your Father in heaven. Follow the steps of great Christians such as Paul, who said, **“I beseech you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this age, but be ye transformed by the renewal of your mind, for ye to approve what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God”** (Romans 12:1-2).

We as Christians must act civilized and dignified, and we must dress and appear that way. For we are the light of the world, as Jesus said: **“Ye are the light of the world. A city setting on a hill cannot be hid, nor do they light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the lampstand, and it shines to all in the house. Thus your light should shine before men, so that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in the heavens”** (Matthew 5:14-16).

And the apostle Paul said, **“Do all things without grumbings and arguments, so that ye may become blameless and pure children of God, blameless in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world”** (Philippians 2:14-15). Take pride in looking civilized and dignified, even if most around you scoff. The best of the world will admire you, and you will **“glorify your Father in the heavens.”**

### **The appearance of our behavior**

Our appearance includes not only how we make our bodies look, but also how we behave. Indeed, our behavior is the most important part of our appearance. Remember, Jesus said, **“Thus your light should shine before men, so that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in the heavens”** (Matthew 5:16).

And Peter wrote about how women of God should dress themselves when he was emphasizing our inner character. He said, **“Likewise the wives, being subordinate to their own husbands, so that even if any are disobedient to the word, they will be gained without a word by the behavior of the wives, observing, in fear, your pure behavior.**

**“Of which let it not be the outward world of braiding of hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on apparel, but the hidden man of the heart, in the incorruptible, of the meek and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For this way formerly also, the holy women, trusting in God, adorned themselves, being subordinate to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord,**

**whose children ye became, doing good, and not being afraid of anything fearful”** (First Peter 3:1-6).

Our appearance includes how we behave. Therefore, to be America, God’s way we should all adorn ourselves with righteousness and good works, as well as with the civilized and dignified appearance of our bodies. That way our light will shine before men, and bring glory to our Father in the heavens. Do not join modern Americans and imitate their perversities. Their dress, their behavior, their speech, are all becoming more filthy; it would have appalled former generations.

Nevertheless, whether Americans ever choose to be America, God’s way or not, if you want to live in heaven with God, then forsake the sinful ways of the world. Hearken to these words of Paul: **“Therefore, Come ye out from among them, and be ye separated, says the Lord, And touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you and will be for a Father to you, and ye will be for sons and daughters to me, says Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in fear of God”** (Second Corinthians 6:17-7:1).