

Problems Teenagers Face: Modesty

➤ = next PowerPoint

➤ Intro:

- **illus.:** psychologist Ruth W. Berenda - peer pressure to conform – constant pressure to conform to pop culture standards of dress, immodest dress
 - A few years ago psychologist Ruth W. Berenda and her associates carried out an interesting experiment with teenagers designed to show how a person handled group pressure.
 - The plan was simple. They brought groups of ten adolescents into a room for a test.
 - Subsequently, each group of ten was instructed to raise their hands when the teacher pointed to the longest line on three separate charts.
 - What one person in the group didn't know was that nine of the others in the room had been instructed ahead of time to vote for the second-longest line.
 - The experiment began with nine teen-agers voting for the wrong line.
 - The victim would typically glance around, frown in confusion, and slip his hand up with the group.
 - The instructions were repeated and the next card was raised. Time after time, the self-conscious victim would sit there saying a short line is longer than a long line, simply because he lacked the courage to challenge the group.
 - This remarkable conformity occurred in about 75% of the cases, and was true of small children and high-school students as well. (revised from : C. Swindoll, Living Above the Level of Mediocrity, p. 225)
 - the pressure to conform is as strong with the wearing of immodest clothing, as anything else with teenager - perhaps one of the strongest areas of pressure to many
- **this series:** Problems Teenagers Face
- **this lesson:** modesty

➤ Modest clothing styles constantly changing – God doesn't dictate exact styles

- **pics.:** clothing style changes since late 19th century till today (21st century)
 - what's modest today, wasn't modest in the 19th century, 1st century
 - if one of the ladies here wore a typical 21st century modest dress back in the 1st century, she would have been considered immoral
 - **illus.:** first room used by U.S. Supreme Court, balcony had modesty curtain, about 6" off floor
 - **illus.:** mom and other relatives were afraid to wear pants to go and see my dad's grandfather
 - parents and grandparents can't necessarily expect kids today to wear what they wore, just like previous generations couldn't do it to them when they were teens

➤ 6 - pics: different styles you find today (21st century)

- **comment each, different cultural styles,** Lindsey's expectant baby, everyone who didn't make it on the slide show can thank me later – different styles of clothing, and standards of modesty, even within the world today
- **How do we know what's modest and immodest, if cultural standards continually change?**
 - Bible, all truth, do all in the name of the Lord

- **Questions to ask** – school, work, out with friends, beach – **self evaluation, ask when shopping**
 - **When people look you, is God glorified?**
 - **1 Cor. 6:19-20** bought with price, **glorify God** in body – not glorify Satan
 - **Do people look at you and assume you're a Christian?**
 - **Phil. 1:20b** exalt **Christ** in your body – not Satan
 - **Do people look at you and say, "If Jesus were here, he'd be hanging with him!"**
 - **illus.: Super Bowl 38**, wardrobe malfunction, Justin Timberlake accidentally exposed Janet Jackson's breast, CBS fined \$550k
 - beginning of the show, girls dressed in sexy lingerie, no one glorified God
 - anyone who watched it didn't glorify God – we turned it off immediately
- - **When people look at you, do they think you're a godly person?**
 - **1 Tim. 2:9-10** adorn, modestly, discreetly, **godliness**
 - **illus.: When you walk by Abercrombie** and see pictures of half-naked models, do you assume they're Christians or unbelievers? - **If you dress like them, what do you look like?**
 - **Christians don't dress like the wild people** of the world – rather they profess godliness
 - **illus.: read, writings, early Christians, woman thrown to wild animals**, ravaged, violently tossed into the air, made sure she wasn't exposed and indecent while hurling through the air – **modesty extremely important**
- - **When people look at you, do they think you're a respectable person?** – **do you look like a respectable person**
 - **Rom. 12:17** respect what is right in the sight of all men
 - **illus.: some school, and whole cities, are banning boys from wearing their pants too low**, some say their imitating criminals or thugs by wearing clothes that way
 - **not respectable**, Christians not wear pants that way
- - **When people look at you, do they think wholesome thoughts or evil thoughts?**
 - **Phil. 4:8** honorable, pure, right, lovely, good repute, excellence, praise, dwell on these things
 - **Christians dress in such a way to foster good thoughts**, not evil thoughts
 - **illus.: Brittany Spears** has been in the news lately for wearing short skirts and flashing cameramen, so they can take pictures of her – **does that make people have wholesome thoughts or evil thoughts**
 - **cf. Christian woman through to wild animals, violently tossed in the air**
 - **What we wear, affects other people.** We have to be careful to always encourage good thoughts in others.
- - **Do you dress in a way that's questionable?**
 - **Rom. 14:23b** dress in such a way there's **no doubt you're doing the right thing**
 - **Christians dress in such a way there's no doubt** their godly, righteous, holy – a Christian
 - **1 Th. 5:21-22** careful, hold fast to good, **abstain from every form** of evil
 - **Christians don't even get close to dressing inappropriately**

➤ **Tips to overcoming the temptation to dress immodestly**

- **be diligent to dress modestly, don't mindlessly follow the crowd**
 - **2 Tim. 2:15** be diligent to present yourself approved to God, workman, not need to be ashamed
 - **2 Pet. 1:10** "Therefore, brethren, be all the **more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you. . . .**"
 - **work hard to find stylish clothes that are modest – sometimes impossible, usually possible**

- - **learn from other Christians, ask questions, how they find stylish clothes that are modest**
 - **Rom. 15:14** you are "**filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another**"
 - **sometimes older folks are good at criticizing young people** for the clothes they wear, but **don't help** find solutions
 - **older folks need to be part of the solution**, not part of the problem
 - **can be hard to find stylish clothes that are modest**

- - **grow spiritually through knowledge of God's word - modesty**
 - **Rom. 1:16** the **gospel is the power of God** unto salvation – modesty
 - **1 Th. 2:13** God's **word performs its work** in those who believe – modesty
 - **Col. 1:9-11**
 - **filled with the knowledge** of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding
 - walking in a **manner worthy of the Lord**, pleasing Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work
 - **strengthened with all power**, according to His glorious might
 - attaining of **all steadfastness and patience**
 - **strengthened by God to live modestly in an immodest world** – gospel, word

- - **be devoted to prayer - modesty**
 - **Rom. 12:9-12**
 - **Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good** - modesty
 - **not lagging** behind in diligence, **fervent** in spirit - modesty
 - **persevering in tribulation** - modesty in an immodest world
 - **devoted to prayer** - modesty
 - **pray about modesty, the temptations and trials of living in an immodest world**

- - **stay focused on spiritual things, not worldly things - modesty**
 - **Col. 3:1-5**
 - you've been **raised up with Christ** - baptized, became Christian
 - **keep seeking** the things above, where Christ is - modesty
 - **set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth** - modesty
 - you have died and your **life is hidden with Christ in God** - modesty
 - **consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality** -immodesty

- - **choose friends who are on the more modest spectrum of styles - modesty**
 - **1 Cor. 15:33** **don't hang out with evil companions, choose friends who are positive influences** (last lesson)
 - **may not be any Christians at your school or in your classes**, but may be some people who are **more modest than others**, hang out more with them
 - **don't fill your mind with immodest thoughts and desires** with the **TV and movies** you watch

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **problem:**

- **it's hard** to live modestly in an immodest world – peer pressure
- **clothing styles constantly change**, so have to continually work to be stylish and yet modest

- **test yourself: make sure you dress in a way that**

- glorifies God
- professes godliness
- is respectable
- encourages wholesome thoughts and not evil thoughts
- isn't questionable

- **solution:** draw closer to God every day, be strengthened by Him through His word, and cling to positive influences

- **inv.:** solution for your life if you're in sin, Jesus