

In their embarrassment, Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves. But God knew that fig leaves would not be enough covering in a sinful world so He made “garments of skin” for them (Genesis 3:21).

### IT'S TIME TO GET PERSONAL.

- What does my clothing say about who I am?
- Do I want to bring glory to myself or to God?
- What does my dad (or brother or grandpa) think about the way I dress?
- Does my clothing show respect for everyone around me and help lead men away from temptation?
- Men appreciate mystery. Does my swimsuit leave more—or less—to their imagination?
- Do I let the fashion industry tell me what to wear? Do I really like what I wear or do I dress to be like everybody else? Am I tired of tugging at my clothes in order to “cover up?”
- Do my clothes and behavior reflect gratitude for Jesus’ sacrificial love for me?

Rejecting what is dishonorable to God sets me “apart as holy” and “ready for every good work” (2 Timothy 2:21).



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# Dressing for life:



## Secrets of the Great Cover-up

## True or false?

1. It's my body so I can wear whatever I want.
2. God wants me to dress in boring clothes.
3. God made my body so it's o.k. to show it off.
4. Clothes are more than just a matter of personal taste.
5. The Bible is silent about modesty and clothing.
6. How I dress has nothing to do with relationships.
7. The clothes I wear say something about me.
8. I can't help it if the way I dress gives a guy the wrong idea.
9. "Dressing up" means being rich.
10. There is a reason why the world wants to undress me.

### ANSWERS

**1. FALSE.** The Creator God who made me tells me in 1 Corinthians 6:19: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." If I believe in Jesus as my Savior, I have great freedom. But freedom in Christ motivates me to seek the good of others rather than doing whatever I want (1 Corinthians 10:24).

**2. FALSE.** Look at the beauty of God's creation! Look at the colors of each flower or the leaves of trees in the fall! God dresses His creation in color and splendor. The beauty of His creation, however, brings glory to God—not to the flower or the tree. (Matthew 6:28-29)

**3. FALSE.** When I "show off," I am calling attention to myself. Pride is a form of idolatry and can lead to problems of all kinds. God is not pleased when we are prideful, but favors those who are humble (1 Peter 5:5).

**4. TRUE.** Clothes were designed by God to cover the shame of Adam and Eve's sin (Genesis 3:7, 21). They tried to cover themselves with fig leaves, but a loving God covered them with a full coat. In this sinful world, God uses my embarrassment to warn and protect me. Modesty or natural shyness is a gift from God to

unmarried men and women. Clothing is His way of protecting the eyes and hearts of male and female so we will be less tempted to sin by thought or action. I can also remember that Jesus clothes me with a garment of salvation and a robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10) My choices of clothing and behavior reflect my attitude toward God and my gratefulness for what Jesus has done for me.

**5. FALSE.** God has a lot to say about modesty and clothing because they are His gifts to male and female. Every one of my choices in life—including skimpy clothing—produces a consequence. That's why He cautions the young man in Proverbs away from "the temptress" (7:10) and instructs women to dress modestly in His presence (1 Timothy 2:9-10). This means dressing modestly and respectfully not just in church but everywhere—because God is everywhere!

**6. FALSE.** What kind of relationship do I want to have? Do I want a guy for one night? Then wearing clothes that tease and leave nothing to the imagination might accomplish that goal. Do I want a guy to respect me, get to know me as a person, and be "patient and kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-6)? Then "covering up" out of respect for him will help accomplish this goal. Clothes help me know how far is "too far" in a physical relationship. Touching under clothing is going too far. God's Word trains me to be self-controlled (Titus 2:11-14).

**7. TRUE.** Other people can't see into my heart or soul. Only God can do that. But other people can tell something about me by how I act and what I say and wear. Through Baptism, I became a child and heir of God. As His daughter, I should want to bring honor to my Father (1 Peter 1:14-16; 2:9) and encourage the people around me to honorable thoughts and behavior.

**8. FALSE.** It's true that men are responsible for their actions and should practice self-control. God wants me to help them do this by not being a "temptress" (1 John 2:10). Jesus will help me!

**9. FALSE.** "Dressing up" simply means wearing the cleanest and best clothes I have. When I go to the funeral of a loved one, I dress "up" out of respect. When I go into the Lord's House, I dress "up" to honor Him. When I go to work or school, I dress "up" in a way that honors God and respects the people around me.

**10. TRUE.** The world doesn't love me. The world makes money when I'm undressed. Sensual dress can lead to sexual behavior which leads to Planned Parenthood, pharmaceutical companies, and businessmen who exploit vulnerable young women. I pray the Holy Spirit will alert my conscience and lead me away from harm.