

Basic Training: What Does It Mean? Lesson 6-2  
What Does it Mean to Live Godly?

*Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

I. Review

A. Morality and Modesty

1. Last week we started the topic of what it means to live godly. We mentioned that living godly begins by being filled with the Holy Ghost, because godliness, also called holiness, does not come simply by changing our behavior.
2. Holiness is a result of God, the Holy Ghost, active and living inside us, who begins to clean us from the inside out.
3. We studied two principles of godliness last week: morality and modesty.
4. Morality refers to standards of appropriate conduct and behaviors that are based on scripture, not simply common traditions. We examined a number of passages in the New Testament that deal with morality (handout), and violating them has serious eternal consequences.
5. Summing the passages we studied we see the importance of purity regarding sexual behavior and lust, avoiding drunkenness, raging anger, murder, stealing, lying, all forms of witchcraft or sorcery, jealousy, selfish rivalries, and causing division.
6. We also studied the biblical principle of modesty, referring to restraining our conduct and appearance within due limits of propriety.
7. We looked at two sources that set forth clear biblical principles of modesty: (1) what is called “the holy garment” worn by the priest, plus (2) examples of immodesty that cause shame.
8. Combining the principles “uncovered” there, we see that a modest garment must adequately cover our:
  - a. Upper body to the neck—avoid sleeveless and low-cut tops.
  - b. Waist—avoid tops and shirts that reveal any part of the belly or back
  - c. Hips—avoid drooping or short garments that reveal any flesh in this area
  - d. Legs to the knee—avoid garments that reveal the knees or any part above.

B. Follow only minimums?

1. Here is thought and a question to consider. I believe that with this research, we have discovered the minimum standards that God asks us to follow in the area of modesty.
2. So here is the question. How do we respond? Should we pursue only the minimum, or lowest acceptable limits?
3. Take prayer for instance. I timed myself this morning and it takes 27.09 seconds to read the Lord’s prayer, slowly and thoughtfully.
4. Since that is the model the Lord gave us for daily prayer, should we then say that God’s minimum requirement for daily prayer is 27.09 seconds? If so, should we set a timer to make sure we meet that requirement?

5. No. A better way to look at it is that God gives us minimum requirements as a starting point for a relationship.
6. But what if you prayed an hour a day? Would that not help develop your relationship with God much more fully and deeply than would a commitment to the 27.09 second minimum?
7. So it is with godliness. God does not give us minimums as our goal. That is our starting point.
8. We can also look at the modesty standards that way. Because godliness is about improving our relationship with God—doing what pleases Him, we shouldn't just try to keep a minimum standard, but give God more than that.
9. As an example, I heard someone suggest that a sleeve that is closer to the elbow than the shoulder, and a skirt or pants that are closer to the ankle than the knee would be a better target than focusing on minimums.
10. **[stick images: stick man 1, 2, 3, and stick girl]**

#### C. Jewelry/Makeup/Tattoos

1. Also in the realm of modesty is the consideration of added embellishments like jewelry and makeup.
2. We have a similar comparison in scripture of what is modest and immodest with regard to these.
3. Last week we read 1 Peter 3:3 about modest outward adorning that does not include wearing of gold, and 1 Timothy 2:9 modest apparel included not wearing gold or pearls or costly garments.
4. Genesis 35:3-4 and Exodus 33:4-6 mention that as part of their repentance, God's people got rid of earrings and stripped off their ornaments.
5. And on the opposite side, as an example of haughtiness, Isaiah 3:16-23 described the daughters of Zion as proudly wearing a number of different kinds of tinkling and flashy ornaments that God would take away.
6. And a form of makeup, "painting the eyes" is described as a form of arrogance in Ezekiel 23:40 that Israel had picked up while in Egypt (quite possibly the origin of makeup).
7. And 2 Kings 9:30 speaks of the wicked queen Jezebel showing her arrogance by painting her face.
8. God even instructed His children not to print marks on their flesh in Leviticus 19:28. Why not? He simply said, because "I am the Lord."
9. So the scriptural teachings of morality and modesty are meant to bring us into a relationship with God based on genuine purity of heart and not leaning toward pride or sensuality.
10. If these things were part of your life when you were in the world, they are now under the blood and are being transformed according to God's will:  
*Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

#### II. Gender distinction

- A. Medical gender distinction
1. Next we will talk about gender distinction. Our modern culture has a view of gender that often differs from science.
  2. What I mean is, normally we are encouraged to “follow the science” about a thing. Our culture gives high esteem and preference to scientific studies and research. That is unless science disagrees with a popular point of view.
  3. For instance, regardless of how much science speaks about the difference between men and women, it is popular to blur the lines of difference between them.
  4. And what is quite puzzling, on this particular topic, it now considered irrelevant, and even culturally taboo, to express what is known from biology about gender differences.
  5. But science has shown important differences that cannot be ignored.<sup>1</sup> Beyond the obvious facts that men and women are equipped with different body parts and shapes, there are other biological differences:
    - a. when having a heart attack, men present different symptoms (chest pressure) than women (back pressure and jaw pain), and women are more likely to die from a heart attack than men;
    - b. men suffer more severely with multiple sclerosis than women
    - c. more women than men suffer from strokes, and the genders express different symptoms
    - d. women suffer greater complications from STDs than men
    - e. men are more likely to lose hair than women
    - f. women are more prone to adult acne than men
    - g. women suffer greater physical symptoms from stress than men
    - h. men suffer greater complications from UTIs than women
    - i. more women live with chronic pain than men, plus with women, it lasts longer and is more intense
    - j. more women get osteoporosis, but the men who get it are twice as likely to die from a broken hip caused by it than women
    - k. Males have higher levels of testosterone which give them athletic advantage
    - l. And obviously, women get pregnant and men cannot
  6. So how does this affect those who reject this science and wish to live as the gender they are not equipped with biologically?
  7. While some people do suffer from gender confusion or same-sex attraction, the solutions that our culture offer by affirming a delusion, does not heal their emotional suffering, but merely sticks a label on them that allows the suffering to continue.
  8. For instance, on the less dangerous side, it puts sports organizations in the difficult position by having to allow a born male who claims to be female, to compete against females. This highlights the odd paradox of this worldview that permits unfair discrimination against women, something we emphasize until this issue is brought up.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/ss/slideshow-conditions-affect-men-women-differently?>

9. But it presents more dangerous medical challenges when a person says they were born into a wrong body and a court or government body validates that biological delusion.
10. That is because the medical profession uses facts learned from scientific study to help them make specific life-saving decisions about a plan of care for their patients based on their gender.
11. So in order to save lives, they must ignore the delusion and let biological truth guide them.
12. Is that a place where it is acceptable to ignore the ideas of popular culture in order to save a life?
13. Truth matters.

#### B. Biblical gender distinction

1. Even though culture may blur the line of difference between male and female, Jesus affirmed the biology of creation that affirms two distinct genders:  
*Matt 19:4-5*  
*4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,*  
*5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?*
2. Jesus affirmed that male/female designations were something that God designed and assigned.
3. Plus, in this passage, Jesus also affirmed that marriage is sacred, permanent, and between one man and one woman.

#### C. Gender appropriate apparel

1. Additionally, there is also a biblical principle of distinction between garments that are appropriate for each gender.
2. Deuteronomy 22:5 is a verse that sets a standard of morality in dealing with the sort of garment that is appropriate for a man and what is acceptable for a woman.  
*Deuteronomy 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a women's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.*
3. The last part of the verse says that violation of this standard is an “*abomination unto the Lord thy God.*”
4. This cross-dressing a prohibition is called an abomination to God, meaning it is something morally disgusting to God.
5. And as we discussed last week, there are serious consequences of ignoring God’s standards, like abominations will be excluded from heaven.  
*Rev 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

#### D. Pertaineth

1. The first part uses the phrase, “that which pertaineth.”  
*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.*

2. Garments are the subject of this verse, so “that which pertains to a man” simply means those garments that are a part of the image of a man.
3. Although Deuteronomy was written approximately 3500 years ago when the garments were much different than they are now, there still remains a distinction between male and female garments in our present culture.
4. In fact, the symbols that refer to males and females that are accepted globally, confirm that distinction. **[image-male, female signs]**
5. Even those who promote transgender distinctions still use the symbols that affirm the male/female distinctions. **[image-all gender]**
6. People of all backgrounds and nationalities across the world understand that the picture of a person with a dress **pertains** to a woman and the picture of a person with pants **pertains** to a man.
7. When God addressed Job, He told him to “gird up thy loins” like a man (Job 38:3, 40:7), meaning, “Put your big-boy pants on, Job,” like a man.  
*Job 38:3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.*
8. While the phrase “modest apparel” for women of 1 Tim 2:9 literally refers to the “**let down**”, long and free flowing garment.
9. The male garment is the girded garment, while the female garment is the let down flowing garment.
10. What is obvious here is that even in our culture with many different feelings about gender, there remains an understanding that a dress is a garment that "pertains to a woman" and that pants pertain to a man.

#### E. Male/Female Distinction in the New Testament

1. The principle of gender distinction is also found in the New Testament:  
*1 Corinthians 6:9-10*  
*9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*  
*10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*
2. Effeminate means "to make like a woman, to make womanish." Other translations translate the word as homosexuals.
3. Men who make themselves like women cannot enter the kingdom of God.
4. “Effeminate” then includes the manners as well as the look or apparel of women.
5. 1 Cor 11 also makes note of a difference between the look of men and women in hair styles:  
*1 Corinthians 11:14-15*  
*14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?*  
*15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.*
6. A detailed study of the Greek words the apostle chose to use show that “long hair” for a woman, means uncut hair. Verse 8 even speaks of cutting a woman’s hair as causing the same kind of shame as shaving her head.

7. Yet a man bears shame for leaving his hair long.
8. There should be a difference between men and women's hairstyles as well as clothing styles.
9. God set the standards of distinction so men should be men and women should be women.  
*Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

### III. Conclusion

1. So presenting our bodies as holy and acceptable includes dressing **modestly**, covering our bodies appropriately and virtuously when around the opposite sex.
2. It involves regarding the God-given gender roles and clothing choices, and hair styles.
3. But most of all, it involves a heart which desires to please God with our lifestyle choices, and a renewed mind.  
*Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*
4. What if we got this all wrong and morality, modesty, and gender distinction are not important to God after all.
5. Some people feel that the Apostolic church goes overboard in their emphasis of these topics, again saying, "I don't think God really cares about how we look, or who we love. He just cares about the heart."
6. What do you suppose will happen to those who uphold these standards we have discussed when they stand before Jesus Christ on their day of judgment?
7. They got to heaven because their sins were washed away in Jesus' blood and they were filled with His Spirit.
8. But when God is handing out rewards, what if he said, "You could have actually lived with a lesser standard, but because you sacrificed that on account of your love for me, I always honor sacrifices made in my name. Enter in, and great is your reward."
9. But on the other hand, what if morality, modesty, and gender distinction are really requirements as we presented from scripture? What if an abomination against the Lord really will truly keep someone out of heaven as we read?
10. Would it not be better to have done more than what God required and be rewarded in heaven for those sacrifices, than to miss heaven for ignoring something God asked?
11. Here is a good way to approach matters of godliness. If there is a line which if I cross will lead me to hell, I don't want to see how close I can come to it without crossing it, I want to stay as far away from it as possible.
12. If living for God requires some sacrifices, that is fine. God is well pleased with them:  
*Heb 13:15-16*  
*15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*  
*16 But to do good and to communicate [share with others] forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*