

Apostolic Distinctives  
Lesson 4  
How to Live Godly for Him

*2 Cor 6:17-7:1*

*17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

*18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

*7 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

I. Review/Introduction

A. Review

1. On January 27, we began our mini-series, "Apostolic Distinctives," in which we are covering four areas in which the Apostolic church is distinct, **[slide]** not only from the world, but also from many churches.
2. Lesson 1: How to get ready for heaven. We spoke about the new birth that Jesus described in John 3:5, about being born of the water and Spirit, and the fulfilment of that Acts 2 where they were born of water in baptism in water in Jesus' name, and were born of the Spirit when they received the gift of the Holy Ghost. This is an apostolic distinction.
3. Lesson 2: There is Just One. We explored the background in the Old Testament that there is just one God and that God is one Lord, and that the early church acknowledged that Jesus was that one Lord. That is an apostolic distinction.
4. Lesson 3: How to Worship Him. Last week we explored why and how we should worship God. Why? Because He is greatly to be praised and He is seeking for worshipers. How? We glorify God in our body through shouting praise, by lifting, clapping, and waiving our hands, by standing, leaping, and dancing, and by kneeling, bowing, and even laying prostrate before Him.
5. Lesson 4: How to live Godly for Him. Our final lesson in this mini-series will describe how the "church," which literally means "called-out ones," is called out from the world to live holy, separated lives unto Him.
6. Questions like, why do Apostolic women dress modestly, wear skirts have long hair? And why do Apostolic men keep their hair short, keep their shirt on when they mow the grass, and don't drink or look at porn?
7. Instead of trying to change the church to "get with the times," getting with the Word causes these distinctives arise out of a desire to live godly for Him!

B. Godliness starts with God

1. As we begin, let me point out that God's ideas about godliness are covered in God's Book, the Bible, so that is our source.
2. Some have expressed their opinion, "I don't think God cares about what we wear or what we do, as long as we love Him. He knows our heart."
3. They express their opinions by starting with, "What I think, is..." or, "The way I see it..." or "I don't see anything wrong with..." or "I've always heard..." or "I don't feel convicted when I..."

4. We need to think about what it means when we replace God's word with "What I think" or "the way I see it."
5. **[slide] Since God went through the trouble of writing and preserving the scriptures, and since He created heaven and set the rules for entrance, we should not give what I think the same level of authority as what He said.**
6. Tonight we will look at principles of godliness that pertain to *cleansing ourselves from all filthiness of the **flesh** and **spirit**, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*
7. We will speak about **morality, modesty, and gender distinction**, and show how morality standards govern holiness in our spirit, and how modesty and gender distinction standards relate to holiness of the flesh.

## II. Morality

### A. It is essential

1. When talking about morality, or godliness, another Bible word to describe that is holiness. Holiness is a characteristic of God that refers to His purity and lack of defilement.
2. When God called you to follow Him, He set the example:  
*1 Peter 1:15-16*  
*15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation [conduct];*  
*16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*
3. And seeking after godliness is important—it is essential to pursue if we want to see God:  
*Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*
4. Ignoring God's standards have the consequence of missing heaven.

### B. Examples of moral violations [mature audience **warning**]

1. One of several lists. Starting with sexual sins in v. 9 and then others in v. 10:  
*1 Cor 6:9-10*  
*9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? [In other words, they will miss heaven.] Be not deceived: neither fornicators [sexually immoral], nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **effeminate**, nor **abusers** of themselves with mankind [these two words refer to both partners in a homosexual act, and Romans 1:26-27 adds that participation in lesbian sexual acts is also sinful.],*  
*10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers [verbally abusive], nor extortioners [swindlers], **shall inherit the kingdom of God.***
2. And this next passage explains exactly what it means to not inherit the kingdom of God:  
*Rev 21:8 But the fearful [faithless], and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the **lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.***
3. As you see, God is serious about moral standards, making the consequence of disobedience the lake of fire and brimstone.
4. So, before you conclude, "I don't see anything wrong with...", make sure to learn what God sees as wrong. There are serious consequences of dismissing God's standard of right and wrong.
5. Jesus said there are also sins of the mind and heart.  
*Matt 5:28-29*

28 *But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

29 *And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*

6. Before we move on, let us read one more passage about **abominations** (something offensive, detestable, or disgusting to God):

*Revelation 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.*

7. That is important to us because things God calls an abomination will not enter into heaven. We will return to that later in the lesson.

8. We read in 2 Cor 7:1 that we are to perfect holiness in **spirit** and **flesh**, and we just examined some examples of holiness in spirit in this discussion on morality.

9. Next we will look at perfecting holiness in flesh, which includes modesty and gender distinction.

### III. Modesty

#### A. Definition

1. Let's look at some biblical definitions of modesty.

*1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in **modest apparel** [1 Pet 3:3 outward adorning], with *shamefacedness* [modesty] and *sobriety* [self-control]; not with *broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array*;*

2. Modest comes from the Greek word, *kosmio*, which means respectable, proper, suitable, well-arranged, seemly, modest.

3. There are examples in scripture of modest apparel like in the general description of the "**holy garment**" in Leviticus 8 and 16, as well as examples of the **opposite of modesty** describing what is shameful.

#### B. The high priest's holy garment

1. Leviticus 8 and 16 provide details about what Aaron, the high priest, wore (like a uniform) in his service for God, which is described as "holy garments" that show what a modest garment should cover:

*Lev 8:7 And he put upon him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod upon him, and he girded him with the curious [decorated] girdle [waste band] of the ephod, and bound it unto him therewith.*

*Lev 16:4 He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on.*

2. These holy garments are like God's model of a modest covering. (From translation notes in NET.)

- a. The coat or tunic was like a shirt worn against the skin that covered the upper body
- b. The breeches, or trousers, covered his hips and legs
- c. The girdle was a sash that served as a belt that covered the waist
- d. The robe was an outer shirt-like garment that reached below the knees

3. Exodus 28 also describes Aaron's garments which had the **purpose** "to cover their nakedness"  
*Exodus 28:42 And thou shalt make them linen breeches [trousers] to cover their nakedness; from the loins [middle of back] even unto the thighs [legs down to the knee] they shall reach:*
  4. So we may think of a holy garment as one that provides a modest covering of our nakedness.
- C. Judgment of shame
1. We also learn more about modesty from descriptions of immodesty in scripture.
  2. Like in this description in Isaiah of the fall of Babylon and their shameful treatment before their captors that included immodestly shaming them:  
*Isaiah 47:2-3*  
*2 Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers.*  
*3 Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame [private parts] shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man [kindly].*
  3. Their "nakedness" referred to was the uncovering of the upper part of their leg. Also the shameful uncovering of their private parts.
  4. Similar **[slide] "shame" passages** also speak of the shameful uncovering of nakedness include the breasts in Ezekiel 16:7-8, the buttocks in Isaiah 20:4, the groin area in 1 Samuel 5:9 (called secret parts).
- D. What is modest covering?
1. Modest apparel simply covers the body parts meant to be covered to avoid shaming ourselves and tempting others.
  8. Keep your body modestly covered with holy garments.
  9. **[stick images: stick man1, 2, 3, and stick girl]**
- E. Jewelry/Makeup/Tattoos
1. I'll mention in passing that another part of modesty deals with added embellishments like jewelry and makeup.
  2. 1 Peter 3:3 and 1 Timothy 2:9 that speak of modesty, speak of not wearing gold or pearls or costly garments. Also see Genesis 35:3-4 and Exodus 33:4-6, Isaiah 3:16-23 for other passages on jewelry. And Ezekiel 23:40 and 2 Kings 9:30 that speak about makeup.
  3. God even instructed His children not to print marks on their flesh in Leviticus 19:28.
  4. Scriptural teachings of morality and modesty should serve to recalibrate our ideas to conform with scripture and not the world.  
*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.*
- IV. Gender distinction
- A. Biblical gender distinction
1. Even though medical science has confirmed many differences between the human male and female, our culture blurs the line of difference between them.
  2. Jesus affirmed the biologically created differences between the 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?

3. Jesus affirmed that male/female designations were something that God designed and assigned and also affirmed that marriage is sacred, permanent, and between one man and one woman.
- B. 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. And as we discussed earlier, there are serious consequences of ignoring God’s moral standards, including abominations that 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.*
  5. 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.*
  6. Even though Deuteronomy was written 3500 years ago, in current times, there is still a distinction between male and female garments and that distinction is used world-wide to help differentiate between what pertains to a man and what pertains to a woman.  
**[image-male, female signs]**
  7. Other scriptures also speak of this distinction.
  8. 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.*
  9. And the passage we looked at in 1 Tim 2:9 that speaks of women’s “modest apparel,” it literally means to a let down, long, and wrap around, garment.
  10. The male garment is the girded garment, while the female garment is the let down flowing garment.
- C. Male/Female Distinction in the New Testament
  1. Principles of gender distinction are 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 (conduct or apparel) cannot enter the kingdom of God.
4. 1 Cor 11 also makes a distinction 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.*
5. The Greek word for "long hair" for a woman, literally means uncut hair. Verse 8 adds that cutting a woman's is a shame.
6. Yet a man bears shame for leaving his hair long.
7. There should be a difference between men and women's hairstyles as well as clothing styles.
8. 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.*

#### V. Conclusion

1. In this short study on apostolic distinctives, we saw in lesson 1, How to Get Ready for Heaven, includes the born again experience of baptism in Jesus' name and receiving the Holy Ghost.
2. In lesson 2, we examined that There is Just One God, and that one God was recognized as the Lord Jesus Christ. An apostolic distinction.
3. In lesson 3, we taught, How to Worship Him, which includes distinct forms of physical worship. An apostolic distinction.
4. And in this last lesson 4, on How to Live Godly for Him, we considered biblical standards of morality that considers behaviors to avoid that will keep us out of heaven.
5. We looked at modesty and the scriptures that teach how to cover our bodies appropriately and virtuously when around the opposite sex.
6. We considered the differences and distinctions in how God created the two genders even including clothing choices and hair styles.
7. But most of all, living godly 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.*
8. We are a church that is unapologetically Apostolic. And also like the early apostolic church, the doors are open to all:  
*Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will**, let him take the water of life freely.*