

# A New Kid

*By Geneva Brown Smith*

"There's a new kid in town," someone might say. "Have you noticed the new low cut fashions being worn by the ladies? Most of the women in the entertainment business are wearing them." Again, the fashion industry is dictating what is to be worn by us. The Bible, however, has something else to say. Are you listening?

"In like manner also that, women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly array; but which becometh women professing godliness, with good works" (I Timothy 2:2-10). This word "modest" is taken from the Greek word *kosmios* and means "orderly, well arranged, decent, or harmonious arrangement." During the 1800's women wore long dresses down to the floor. Our great grandmothers were considered immodest if their ankles were shown in public. In our day, people of the world wear just about anything.

In order to understand "modesty," it, might be helpful to look at "immodesty."

## **The Heart**

Immodesty begins in the heart and manifests itself in a woman's dress. It is right and proper for a woman to be well groomed. She should make herself beautiful for her husband. She should avoid dressing to attract someone other than her husband, however.

Immodesty manifests itself in a woman's speech. Have you ever been in the presence of someone who constantly wants to tell off-color jokes, or make some suggestive comment? Some women always have a cute (flirty) remark on the tip of their tongues for other men while they ignore their own husbands and the other women.

Immodesty manifests itself in a woman's body language. Some women wear skirts that are too short to sit down in. They sit and try to pull the skirt down in essence announcing to everyone, "my skirt is too short." Others sit and cross their legs in a seductive manner while looking to see which men are watching. These kinds of things come from troubled hearts.

## **The Bathing Suit**

Some Christians have suggested that the modern bathing suit is modest if worn only on the beach where other people are dressed in that fashion. This argument can be reduced to an absurdity. Would a Christian woman be considered modest if she went to a nude beach and wore no clothing (like everyone else)? I think not.

**Shorts and Halter**

With the advent of summer, it might be advantageous to consider a very popular item of clothing among all different ages. Shorts... not modest if they are patterned after their name. I suppose there might be modest ones if they are long enough and loose enough. I cannot imagine a modest halter, however.

## **Adam and Eve**

When Adam and Eve learned good from evil, they desired to be clothed. They made

themselves aprons out of Fig leaves (Genesis 3:7) In verse 21 God made clothes for them out of animal skins. May we infer that, fig leaf aprons were not enough?

### **An Attitude**

Modesty is more than a high neckline, a long skirt, or any particular item of clothing. If a woman possesses a modest attitude, the proper dress and behavior will follow. Christian women should strive to keep their hearts pure, knowing that all sins begin there (Proverbs 23:7). If she does this, you will not find her wearing plunging necklines, very short skirts or skin tight clothing. Neither will she behave as we suggested in the above paragraphs.

### **Influence**

The good influence of a Christian woman is an asset that can not be over-emphasized. If you have daughters, they are watching you. Also, you are influencing the younger women in the church. Are you a good role model?