

Modesty.

Just what does this word mean? We don't hear much about it in today's world; in fact, even the Bible doesn't specifically mention this word very often. But, if we take a look at the meaning of the word itself, we will be able to see that the Bible, indeed, does have quite a bit to say on the subject of modesty. In this study, we will examine several different aspects of modesty, what God has to say about it in His Word, and how we can apply His teachings about modesty to our everyday lives. You will find that while God's standard of modesty is high, it is one He holds his followers to. The world we live in, unfortunately, abounds with just the opposite of what God expects His children to live up to in this area. As a Christian young lady who must live IN this world, but is not to be OF this world, it is sometimes confusing to find what is right. The purpose of this study is to show you, through your own study of God's Word, how to apply God's standards for modesty to all areas of your life, so that you may be a good testimony before others, and glorify Him in your life.

Lesson 1: What is "Modesty"?

Look up the word "modesty" in Webster's 1828 dictionary, and write the definition which most pertains to females below:

Modesty -

Webster says that the word "modesty" is synonymous (has the same meaning as) with the words "chastity" and "purity of manners".

Define the word, "chastity", below:

Chastity -

Wow! This word means quite alot! “purity of the body”, “freedom from obscenity”, “freedom from bad mixture” - these three phrases alone tell us that the word, “chastity”, which means the same thing as “modesty”, is definitely unlike how the world would tell us to live. Let’s look up the root word for the word “chastity”, which is the word, “chaste”.

You can see that this word has the same meaning as “chastity”. Let’s look into the Bible, and see what God has to say about the word, “chaste”.

Look up the verse, Titus 2:5, and write below:

Read the verses preceding and following this verse, to get a better understanding of what God is saying here. Read Titus 2:1-5. God is telling the older women here to teach the younger women to be “chaste”, among other things. So, looking at this verse, we can see that it is very important to the Lord that young women are taught to be chaste, or modest. Reread the definitions of the words, “modesty” and “chaste”, reflecting on the meanings, and the fact that this is how God wants the females He created to behave.

Lesson 2: Purity

Since I have written an entire Bible study on purity, entitled, The Standard of Purity (see address in front of this guide if you are interested in getting this resource), I won’t take too much time here to delve into the subject. But, since part of the definition of “modesty” and “chastity” is “purity of manners” and “purity of body”, we should take a look at what it means to be “pure”. Listen to what Webster, in his 1828 dictionary, says:

Pure - not mixed with anything which defiles (makes unclean); clean; uncontaminated (unpolluted, undefiled, uncorrupt).

(definition continued on the next page)

Morally clean: chaste in mind and thought; uncontaminated. Physically chaste, virgin.

Of a high, uncorrupted standard.

Let's look a little closer at what it means to be "pure in manners". As we have seen, a brief definition of "purity" means "clean", or "uncontaminated". What does it mean to have "clean" or "uncontaminated" manners?

Let's look at what God has to say about our manners.

Read Leviticus 20:1-24. Here we see what God has to say about many sins, and what the penalty was for these sins. Praise the Lord that we do not live in a time when we must pay for our sins with death, since our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, died to pay the price for our sins! But, God does include this chapter in His Word so that we can see what He thinks about these sins, which are definitely the opposite of what one who is "chaste" and "pure" should do. Look again at Leviticus 20:23, and write it below:

God says NOT to walk in the MANNERS of this sinful NATION which He describes in the rest of the chapter. While we, too, live in a sinful nation, and a sinful world, if we are God's children, we are NOT to walk in the manners of this world.

Copy 1 Corinthians 15:33 below:

God says here that “evil communications” corrupt good manners. Does He say that evil communications CAN corrupt good manners? No, he states that evil communications DO corrupt good manners. It is not wise for God’s child to keep company with those who bring “evil communications”, thinking that “just a little bit” of worldly communication (gossip, dirty jokes, etc.) can’t hurt them. God shows us here plainly that evil communications WILL corrupt good manners! He even goes so far as to warn us in the beginning of this verse, telling us to “Be not deceived” in this matter. When in doubt as to whether or not your communications are evil or acceptable, ask yourself this quick “check-up” question - “Would I still have this conversation if Jesus Christ were standing here having it with my friends and me?” He is, you know, with you all the time, if you are His child, for He lives in your very heart. If you cannot answer an emphatic “Yes!” to the question above, it is most likely a conversation to avoid!

Lesson 3: What SHOULD Our Manners Be?

God has much to say about how His people should act. But, since this guide was written to show young ladies His standards for modesty, that is what we will concentrate on. There are three main areas that we will look at in defining modest manners:

1. The way we speak
2. The way we look
3. The way we present ourselves

Let’s start with #1. Knowing what the definition of “modesty” is, let’s look at just what it means to be “pure in manners”. We have seen that God says not to walk in the manners of a sinful nation. But just how does God expect us to walk? What SHOULD our manners be? Look up Proverbs 31:26, and copy it below:

This text shows us how the Lord wants a Godly woman to use her mouth. When we use our mouth to say things that are wise and kind, we are honoring the God who made our mouths.

What are some things that you can say to someone to show wisdom and kindness? _____

What about the manner in which we speak? Should a Godly young lady speak loudly and brashly? Should she giggle and be silly, just to draw attention to herself, especially around boys? Should she gossip? Should she lie, or embellish the truth? I think you already know the answers to these questions, but let's back them up with Scripture, just to be sure what God has to say. In the next few lessons, we will examine the questions above, and see what Scripture has to say about each one.

Lesson 4: Volume Control

Let's look at one of the questions from the end of yesterday's lesson. Should a Godly young lady speak loudly and brashly?

Copy Proverbs 15:1 below:

Now copy Proverbs 25:15 below:

What does it mean to speak "softly"? _____

The world we live in, with its rampant feminism, tells women that we must be loud, pushy, even manly, to be successful in life. But, that is exactly the opposite of what God's Word says. That should be no surprise, since we know that the world's definition of success is not even close to God's definition of success. Look up 2 Timothy 2:24, and copy it on the next page.