



The Sin of Immodesty

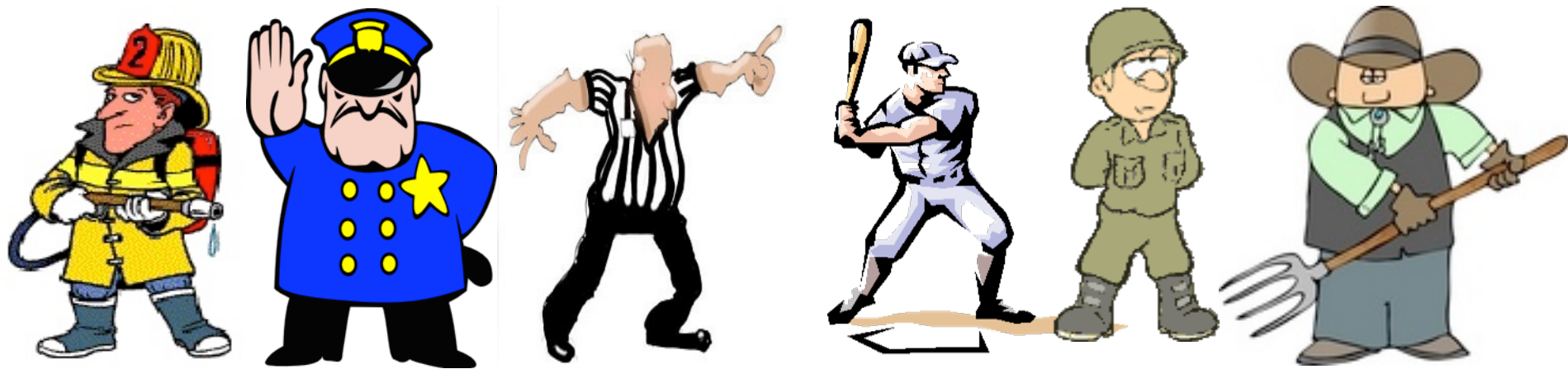
DO NOT CONFORM.
TO THIS WORLD

The Sin of Immodesty

*How America changed
(and the church with it)
while the Bible didn't*



- Do we have to ask any of these men what they do for a living?



- No, because clothing communicates.

Clothing Communicates

- Joseph's coat of many colors (Gen. 37:3-4)
 - “Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him”
- Joseph before Pharaoh (Gen. 39:14)
 - “Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh”

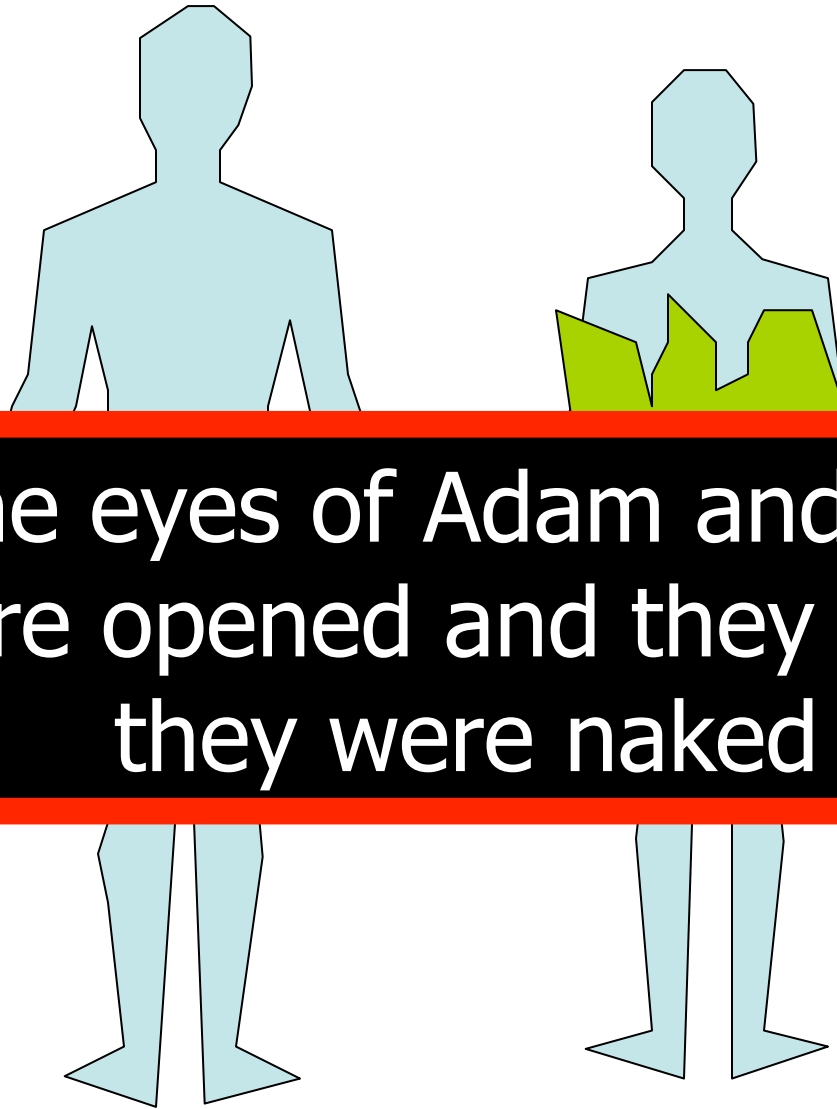
Clothing Communicates

- Virgin daughters of David (2 Sam. 13:18-19)
 - “Now she had on a robe of many colors for the king's virgin daughters wore such apparel. And his servant put her out and bolted the door behind her. Then Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of many colors that was on her, and laid her hand on her head and went away crying bitterly”
- Attire of a harlot (Prov. 7:10)
 - “And there a woman met him, With the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart”

Lack of Clothing Communicates

- Someone in need (Mt. 25:36)
 - “I was **naked and you clothed me**”
 - Some might get angry today if you try to cover them up
- Someone lacking in sensibility (Mk. 5:5-15)
 - “Night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones ... Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and **clothed and in his right mind.**”
- Someone in a shameful condition (Rev. 3:18)
 - “Buy ... white garments, **that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may be covered**”

Genesis 3

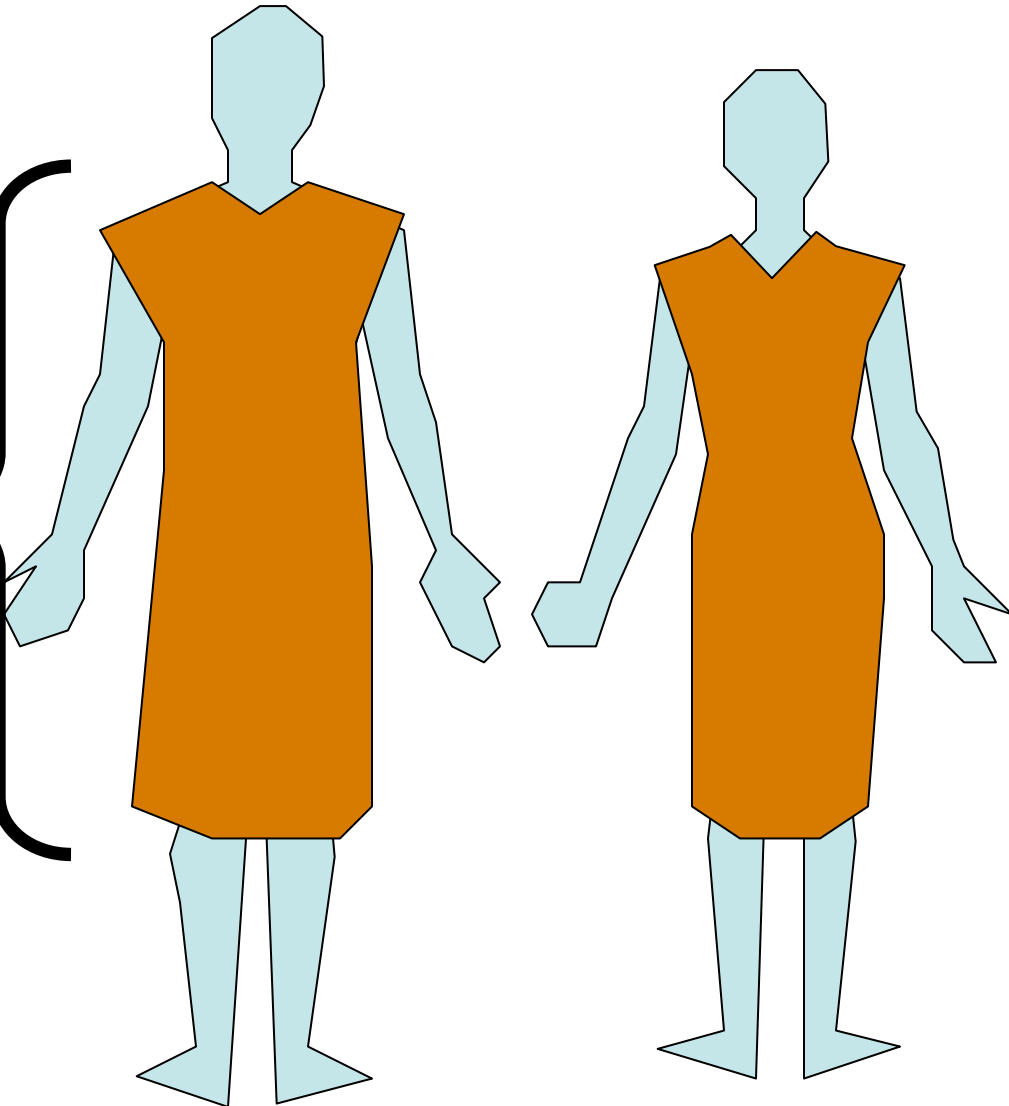


God
deemed
that not
enough

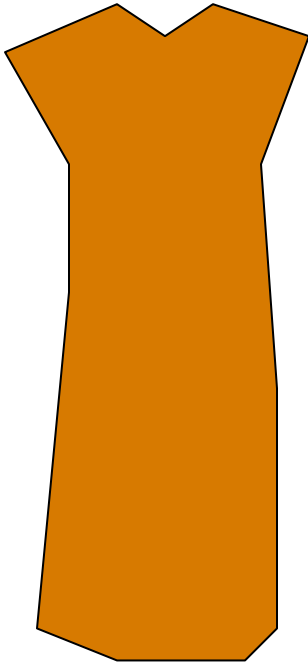
The eyes of Adam and Eve
were opened and they knew
they were naked

He gave
them
tunics of
skin

From the
Shoulder
to the
Knee

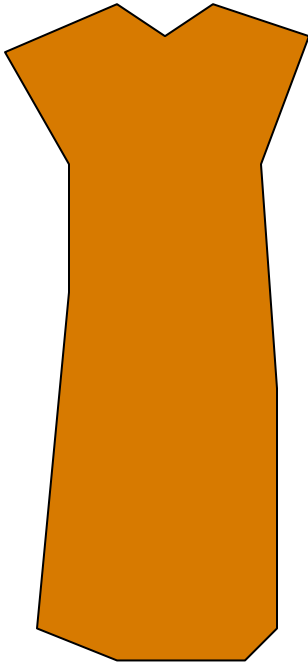


Tunic



The I.S.B.E. article on “Dress” says the *kethoneth* (Greek *Chiton*) “resembled the Roman tunic, corresponding most nearly to our long shirt, reaching below the knee always, and, in case it was designed for dress occasions, reaching almost to the ground” (I.S.B.E., II:877).

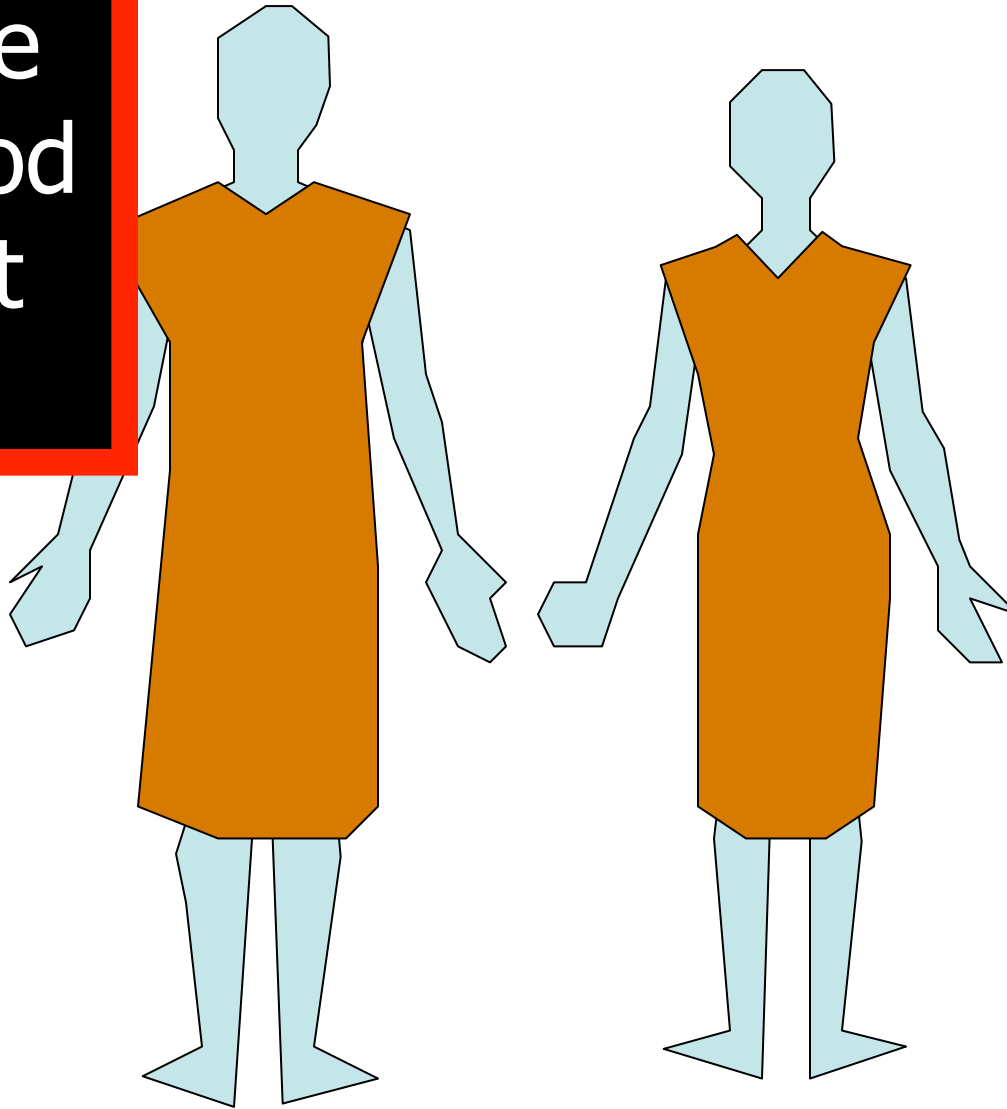
Tunic

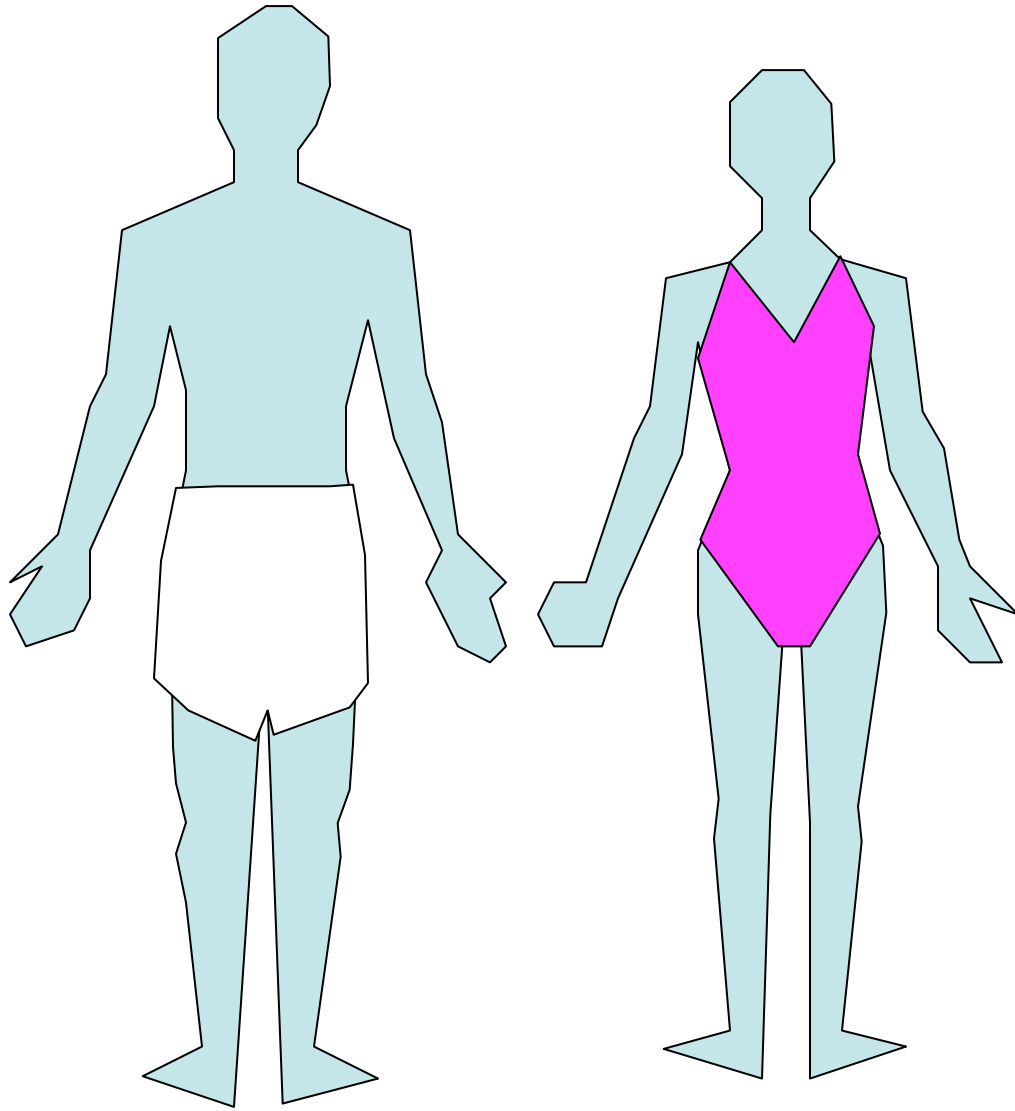


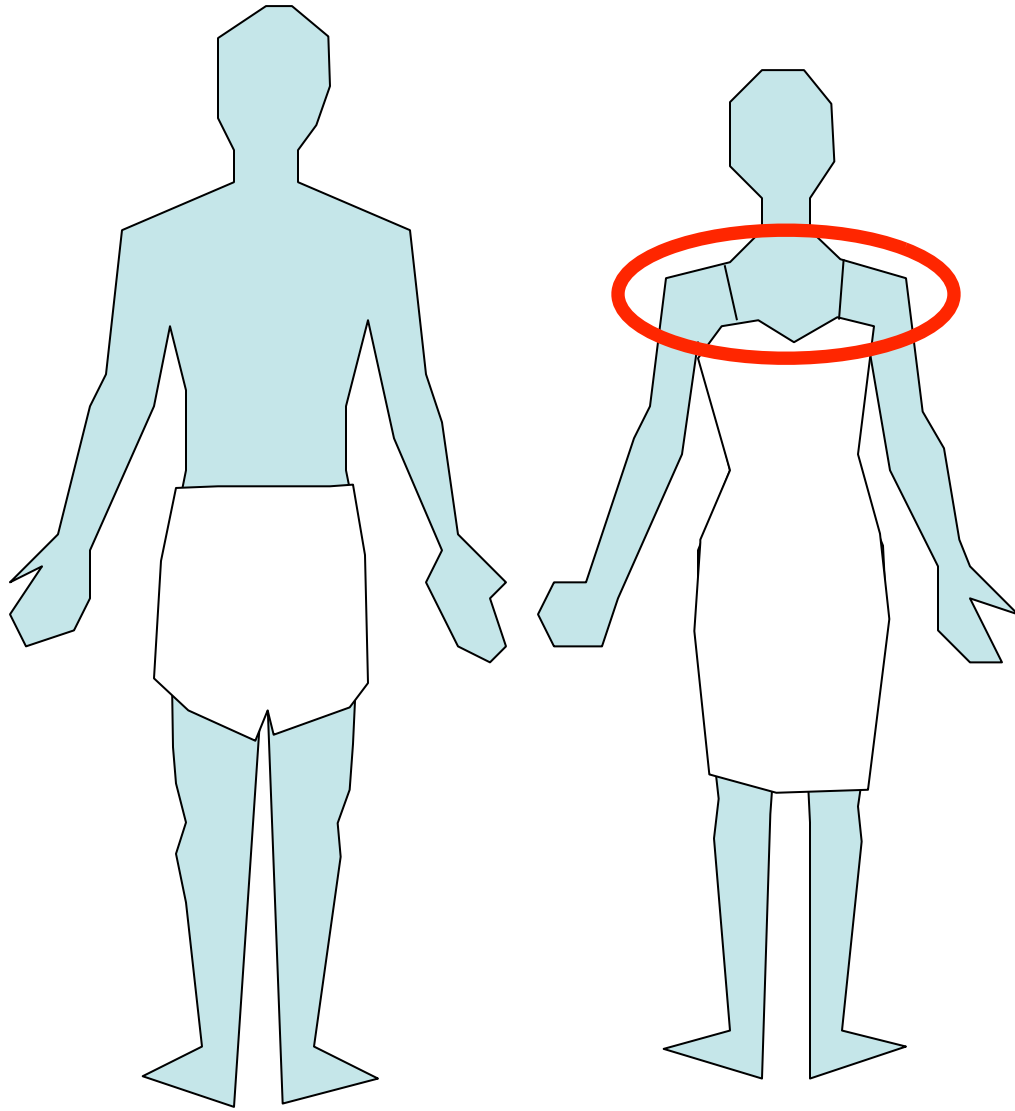
Manners and Customs of the Bible:
“The tunic ... was a shirt which was worn next to the skin. It was made of leather, hair-cloth, wool, linen, or in modern times, usually of cotton. The simplest form of it was without sleeves and reached to the knees or sometimes to the ankles. The well-to-do wore it with sleeves and extending to the ankles. Women as well as men wore it [see Cant. 5:3, A.R.V.], although there was no doubt a difference in style” (Fred H. Wright, *Manners and Customs of Bible Lands*, 91).

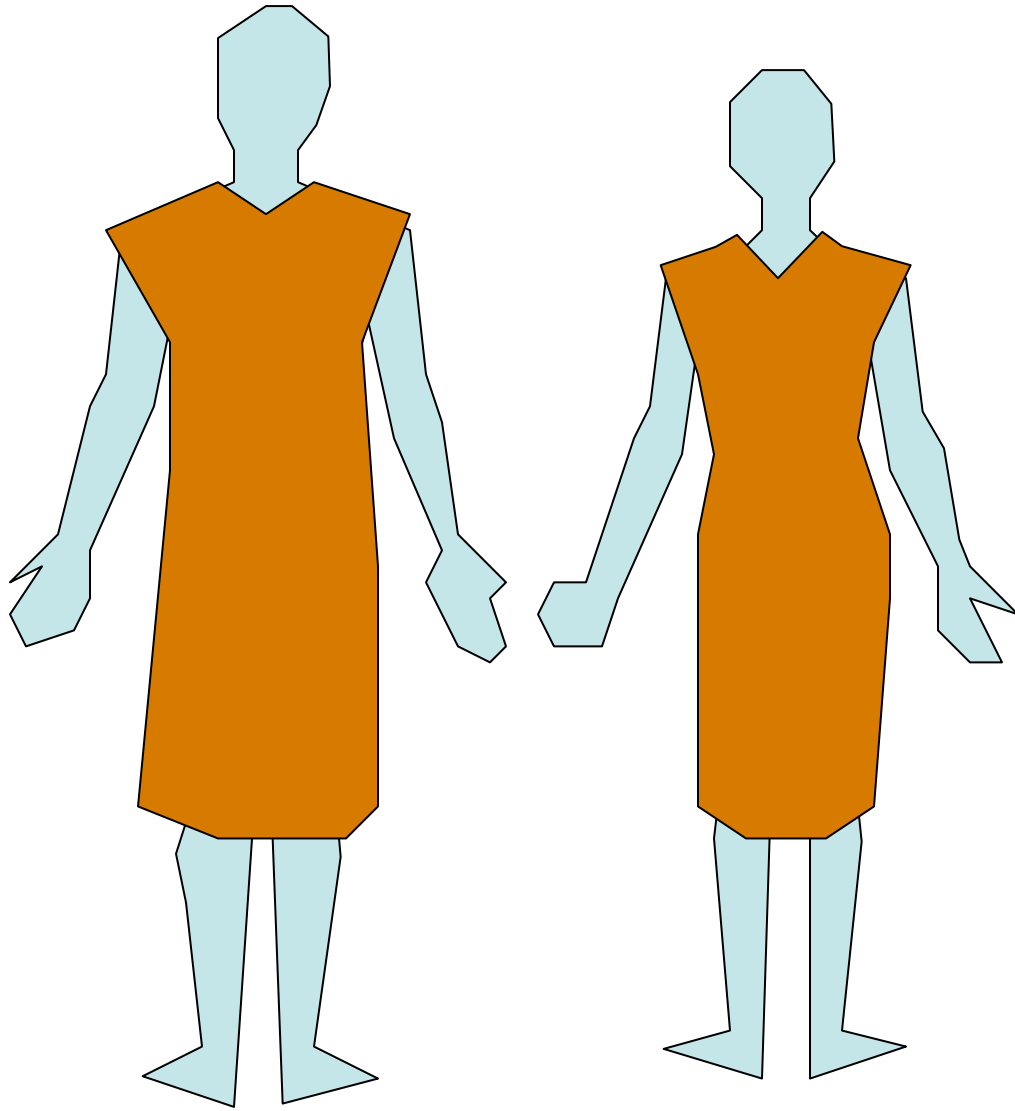


Please
observe
what God
did not
give









God Has Always Cared

- **“Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.” (Rom. 12:1-2)**
 - This shows that God cares how you “present your bodies”
 - This shows that there is a unholy way to present your body
 - This shows that there is an unacceptable way to present your body.
- “Christian peoples were often noted for their modesty, and heathen peoples for their immodesty. Today, the line between the professing Christian and the savage tribesman has become increasingly blurred, as more and more “Christian” people resort not only to the pagan practices of scarification, tattoos and body mutilation, but have thrown off the “restraints” of modest dress in favor of the trendy and physically revealing. Americans have come to think of nakedness as normal and acceptable, even preferable.” (Jeff Pollard, *The Christian and Modesty*, pg 13)

What happened in America?

- Compare dress in the 1600s with today



What happened in America?

- Compare dress in the 1600s with today!



What happened in America?

- Compare dress in the 1600s with today!
- Compare dress in the 1700s with today!



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What happened in America?

- Left 1858 Bathing suit, Right 1864 Bathing dresses



FIGURE 4.—BATHING DRESS.



In

Swimwear Ad

- “Our fit specialists are specially trained and ready to help you determine your correct swimsuit size. We know that when you are choosing the bare minimum, you want a fit that plays up your assets, not one that calls attention to those less-than-perfect areas. On every tag you will find one or more colored dots to help you find the suit that best flatters your figure.” (Our Swim Shop is Now Open, newspaper ad found by Jeff Pollard, pg 64)
- Does this sound like the purity of Jesus Christ?

What happened in America?

- Two questions must be answered
 - 1) Why was nakedness not public until modern times? (300 yrs vs. 100 yrs)
 - 2) What change in our society put skin on display?
 - The answer here is simple: Our culture in general sprang from a Biblical world view .
 - God's word was drowned out by the trendy fashion industry
- Will we conform to our world or the Bible?

What happened in America?

- Dates of Change
 - 1960s-1970s – The navel was exposed
 - 1970s – High cuts revealed hips
 - 1980s-1990s – Strings are now being worn that leave nothing to the imagination
- Just 60 years ago, dressing this way was called “indecent exposure” leading to arrest. (Jeff Pollard, pg 46, 47)

The Bible Speaks

- **Rom. 12:1-2** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”

The Bible Speaks

- **1 Pet. 1:14-16** “As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as he who has called you is holy, you also must be holy, because of the mercy which is brought upon you by Jesus Christ, who has purified to himself a peculiar people, zealous of good deeds.”
- **1 Cor. 6:19-20** “Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God. You are not your own; you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

Great, so
where is the
defined
standard?

God, the designer of clothes

- Does the Bible offer an objective standard?
 - If not, one could wear anything or nothing at all
 - If yes, we must appeal to Scripture for it
- As early as Genesis 3, we learn God designed clothing to cover the body, not just the private areas – shoulders to the knees.
 - We are not saying people need to start wearing animal skins again.
 - Rather, to conceal and cover what God would have us to in public.

God, the designer of clothes

- God's standards did not change at the giving of the law of Moses, nakedness was still nakedness

- **“Unto the thighs - i.e., to the bottom of** cover
- **Covering the “loins to the thighs” – “thighs”** t to
- **are included**
- **“From A to Z” – “Z” is included** (SV)
- **used in Ex. 28:4 – shoulders to the knees.**
- God made this for Adam and Eve; now he tells the Jews to make it for themselves

God, the designer of clothes

- When God became man what did He wear?
 - The Chiton - shoulders to the knees (at least).
 - Jn. 19:23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece.
 - The definition of nakedness did not mysteriously change from the Old to the New Testament

God, the designer of clothes

- What are the saints in heaven clothed with?
 - You guessed it! Long clothing (stolay) gown/robe
 - Rev. 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands (same word in 6:11, 7:13, 14)
- Old and New Testaments reveal that God's earthly and heavenly people wore garments that covered them from the shoulder to the knee
- Thus, we have a standard, from the garden to heaven
- **Therefore modest people don't wear: halter tops, short shorts/skirts, low necklines, shoulder less or backless dresses, or swimsuits in public.**

Body Presentation

- Christian modesty

- Who will set your standards? God or Man?

- Who will be

- God

“Ha

god

“Glorify God in
your BODY”
(1 Cor. 6:20)

him,

and

To go to heaven we must be set apart to God

- **Christ is the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him (Heb. 5:8-9)**
 - Hear (Mt. 13:9)
 - Believe (Jn. 8:24)
 - Repent (Lk. 13:3)
 - Confess (Mt. 10:32-33)
 - Be Baptized (Mk. 16:16)

