

I. Modesty Defined

1. The original language word (*kosmios* G2887 adjective) translated as “modest” is used twice in the New Testament ([1 Tim. 2:9](#), [3:2](#) “of good behavior” or “orderly” ASV).
 - a. The Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary defines modesty as “propriety in dress, speech, or conduct.”
 - b. *kosmios* is defined as the following from various Greek lexicons:
 - i. “well-arranged, seemly” (Thayer 356).
 - ii. “orderly” (Vine vol. 2 p. 59).
 - iii. “orderly, i.e. decorous [marked by propriety and good taste: correct]” (Strong 43).
 - iv. “pertaining to being appropriate for winning approval, appropriate” (BDAG 561).
 - v. “pertaining to being modest in the sense of moderate and wellordered” (Louw-Nida 747).
2. With modesty defined, we understand that a lack of adequate clothing would fall under the category of being immodest or opposite of modest.
 - a. Since that topic was covered this morning, our focus will shift primarily in the other direction of having either **too much clothing on** or **drawing excessive attention to ourselves by our clothing or other things**.
 - b. This is also immodest and is the issue at hand in [1 Timothy 2:9-10](#).

II. A Critical Examination of [1 Timothy 2:9-10](#)

1. Paul had just provided instruction specific to men in a mixed, public assembly in [1 Timothy 2:8](#).
 - a. We know this because Paul wrote to Timothy on how he was to conduct himself in the church ([1 Tim. 3:15](#)).
 - b. We also know this because Paul used language specific to the male and female sexes.
 - c. men (*ho* G3588 definite article *aner* G435 noun, plural, masculine) refers only to the male sex and never to the female sex.
2. In [1 Timothy 2:9-15](#), instruction for women is in view by the apostle Paul.
 - a. women (*ho* G3588 definite article *gyne* G1135 noun, plural, feminine) refers only to the female sex and never to the male sex.
3. Women are to adorn themselves in modest apparel with shamefacedness (shamefastness ASV) and sobriety ([1 Tim. 2:9](#)).
 - a. adorn (*kosmeo* G2885 verb, present).
 - b. modest (*kosmios* G2887 adjective).
 - c. apparel (*katastole* G2689 noun).
 - d. shamefacedness (*aidos* G127 noun).
 - e. sobriety (*sophrosyne* G4997 noun).

4. Specific examples of immodesty were provided next by Paul ([1 Tim. 2:9](#)).
 - a. braided (braided ASV) hair (*plegma* G4117 noun).
 - b. gold (*chryson* G5557 noun).
 - c. pearls (*margarites* G3135 noun).
 - d. costly array (raiment ASV) (*polyteles* G4185 adjective *himatismos* G2441 noun).
 - e. All these items were designed to draw attention to the person and thus would be immodest.
 - i. They could also indicate social status which we must be careful with as it relates to partiality ([Jm. 2:1-13](#)).
5. To summarize, any outward clothing or worn item that would draw undue attention to the wearer or would incite lust is immodest.
 - a. This instruction is just as applicable to men who would draw attention to themselves or would incite lust with what they are, or are not, wearing.
 - i. God is not partial ([Rm. 2:11](#)).
 - b. Our bodies are to be used to bring glory to God not to cause others to lust after us or to bring glory to ourselves ([1 Cor. 6:18-20](#); [Mt. 5:16](#)).
 - c. We are to be good stewards of what God has entrusted us with which includes our finances ([Eph. 4:28](#); [Ac. 20:35](#); [Pr. 3:9](#)).
 - i. Consider the parable of the talents ([Mt. 25:14-30](#)).
 - ii. Consider the parable of the unjust steward ([Lk. 16:1-13](#)).
 - d. Instead of wearing immodest clothing, a woman should be adorned with good works.
6. It is proper or fitting that a Christian woman professes godliness ([1 Tim. 2:10](#)).
 - a. professing (*epangellomai* G1861 verb).
 - b. godliness (*theosebeia* G2317 noun).
 - c. If a Christian woman lays claim to reverence toward God, then she will not draw undue attention to herself or her body but will do the will of God.
7. Women must clothe themselves with good works ([1 Tim. 2:10](#)).
 - a. God's Word makes us thoroughly furnished for every good work ([2 Tim. 3:16-17](#)).
 - b. The widow indeed must diligently follow every good work ([1 Tim. 5:10](#)).
 - c. Dorcas was full of good works ([Ac. 9:36-39](#)).
 - d. God values these women highly ([1 Pt. 3:1-6](#)).
 - e. Remember, our goal is to bring glory to God as the light of the world ([Mt. 5:16](#)).