

Family Worship: Upholding God's Creation Order in Our Dress

Key Scripture Text

"A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 22:5, NKJV)

Daily Scripture Memory Verse

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27, NKJV)

Devotional Teaching and Application

A claim we consistently make is that God's Word speaks to every area of life. The text we are studying today speaks to an area of life that is on display from morning till night. It is the subject of our clothing and our apparel. In God's order, in God's way, everything is meaningful and expressive of a divine purpose. When we read this specific law in Deuteronomy, we must first look at its context. This law is part of a broader section designed to uphold, maintain, and defend the creation order. God established creation ordinances in the very beginning, setting distinct boundaries in the natural world. He made a distinction between animals and mankind, between different types of seeds, and, most importantly, He established a fundamental distinction between male and female.

What do we mean by this? It means that mankind was created to exist in two distinct and complementary genders, and our clothing is meant to reflect that reality. The command here is an absolute prohibition. The phrase translated "that which pertains to a man" refers to the full outfit, the accouterments, and the accessories that are prepared for a man in pursuit of his calling. The distinct Hebrew word for man used here emphasizes strength. It is as if God is saying, "I made you a man, I endowed you with strength, now live, act, and dress like a man." Likewise, He is calling the woman to embrace her God-given femininity, resisting the temptation to take on the dress or role of a man.

We live in a culture that is heavily influenced by the false religion of feminism, which seeks to erase the boundaries God has established. This is an attack on the fundamental theology of the Bible. God calls this confusion an abomination because it is a direct rejection of His wise creation order. As a Christian family, our clothing is an integral part of our witness and our testimony. We must not press the boundaries to see how close to the line we can get. Instead, we want to dress with clear gender distinction and with absolute modesty, possessing our vessels in sanctification and honor. We want to make a definitive statement to the world that we love our Creator and we gladly submit to His design.

Questions for Children

Parents, use these simple questions to help your younger children recall the main facts of today's reading. It is important to train them early to understand that God made us exactly as He wanted us to be, and that our differences as boys and girls are a beautiful gift from Him.

1. What two distinct genders did God create in the very beginning?
2. Why does God want boys to dress like boys and girls to dress like girls?

By establishing these simple truths now, you are building a foundation for them to understand biblical authority. They will be the next generation who must stand firm on the creation order in a confused world.

Theological Reflection Questions

As older children and adults consider this passage, it is vital to connect the outward practice of dress to the inward reality of our covenant faithfulness. God's law is never arbitrary; it always reflects His holy character and His redemptive purposes. Use these questions to search your own heart and to discuss how our theology informs our everyday decisions.

1. How does the biblical doctrine of the creation order directly contradict the modern cultural philosophies of feminism and gender fluidity?
2. In what ways does maintaining a clear distinction in our clothing serve as a public testimony of our submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?
3. How does the Old Testament command regarding clothing relate to the New Testament commands regarding modesty and the prevention of defrauding our brothers and sisters in Christ?

When we think deeply about these things, we realize that we are not simply talking about fabric and fashion. We are talking about our allegiance to the Creator and our willingness to be governed by His Word rather than the spirit of the age.

Practical Applications for Obedience

The goal of studying God's law is never merely theoretical knowledge, but practical obedience. We must govern ourselves under the direction of His Word. The following applications are meant to help your family take concrete steps toward honoring God's design in your daily lives.

1. Evaluate your current wardrobe and ask the Lord to show you if there are any areas where you have allowed the world's standard to compromise biblical modesty or clear gender distinctiveness.
2. Fathers, take the lead in setting a standard of masculine dress for yourself and your sons, ensuring your clothing reflects your God-given calling.
3. Mothers, encourage your daughters to rejoice in their femininity, guiding them to choose apparel that is distinctly feminine, modest, and honoring to the Lord.

As you implement these practices, remember that our obedience is an expression of our love for the Redeemer. We do this not as unto men, but as unto the God who has given us life and saved us by His grace.

Family Prayer Prompt

O Lord, our Sovereign Creator and gracious Redeemer, we come before You to acknowledge that Your ways are perfect. We thank You for the creation order, and we praise You for the beautiful design of male and female. Lord, we confess that we live in a society that rebels against Your wisdom and seeks to confuse what You have made clear. Give our family the courage to stand firm against the lies of our culture. Teach us to govern ourselves by Your Word, that we might dress with both clear distinction and holy modesty. May our lives, our actions, and even our clothing be a testimony that we belong to Jesus Christ. We ask for the grace to joyfully accept the roles You have given us. We pray these things in the strong name of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.