

Holiness  
Unto the Lord

Jason DeMars





This book is dedicated to my wife, Amy DeMars, who has stood by me through many difficult times as a missionary and is an example of Christian modesty.

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# Introduction

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In this book I want to show you that the Bible teaches us about modesty and gives us a standard to follow. While it is true that the New Testament does not promote legalistic and controlling behavior. Under the New Covenant the Spirit of God works in our hearts to cause us to know the Lord and obey his will. The Lord also shows us in his word how to behave and live our lives on a daily basis. If we reject the teachings of the Bible in order to follow our own way then it is clear we need to make things right in our lives and listen to the voice of the Spirit of God in his Word.

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

(1 Timothy 3:15)

Yes, you read that correctly, Paul wrote to Timothy and told him that this was instructions to him so that he would know how to behave. Clearly, the Spirit of God writes the word of God on our hearts and yet he sent apostles to give us the commands of the Lord so that we know how to behave ourselves.

## Holy to the Lord

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### **Holiness of the Priesthood**

"You shall make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, "Holy to the Lord ." (Exodus 28:36)

The High Priest was to wear a plate that was engraved with the phrase "Holy to the LORD." This was under the Old Covenant. Not only was he to merely wear something which expressed "Holy to the LORD," this was to be an outward expression of what his life was. The High Priest was set aside for God's purpose. To be holy means to be separate, it means to be different than others. It is not being different or separate solely for the sake of being different or separate. It was to be separate and different TO THE LORD.

Our separation from the world is according to the purpose of God and for his glory. The High Priest had specific requirements for his clothes, his hair, and his behavior. But its not just the High Priest that needed to be holy. In the Psalms, David writes that all the saints should worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. (Psalms 29:2)

### **Believers are kings and priest Holy before God**

Every believer is called to be separated and to be different from the world. The High Priest was to be separated unto God both externally and internally. That is, his clothing was different, but so was his behavior. Where does our behavior begin? Our behavior begins in the heart.

And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." (Mark 7:20-23)

So these wicked behaviors which Christ condemns start from the heart. By implication we know that the opposite is true as well. Holy behavior starts from the heart.

We are saved by grace through faith and not of works. Our behavior does not affect our salvation. We are not saved by having good behavior. We are saved by the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross. We receive that salvation by faith apart from works. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? (James 2:18-20)

As James writes, without works our faith is dead. Demons believe in one God, but that does not mean they have experienced salvation. We can believe in the fact of one God, the fact of the resurrection and the Lordship of Jesus, but how has that belief affected our lives? If our lives don't produce the fruit of good works and holiness, then it is clear something is lacking to our faith.

**Living Holy is a reflection of His Holiness. Yes, we are saved by Grace, yet God is Holy, and the Word of God brings a separating from unbelievers, a holiness set apart from the world.**

Being saved from the wrath of God by the blood of Jesus Christ means we are born of the Spirit of God. But what does it mean to be born of the Spirit? When we are born of the Spirit we become new people. (2 Corinthians 5:17) That means our *nature* changes. Before we had evil thoughts, committed adultery, lied, slandered people, used drugs, smoked and drank alcohol. Now our nature has changed.

When our nature changes, the things that we want to do changes. We no longer want to drink, we no longer want to smoke, we no longer want to lie or steal or have sex outside of marriage. If your desires have not changed, it shows you need to receive the Holy Ghost. Ask the Father, show him you are desperate for it, and he will give it to you.

This is the way that God creates holiness in us. He changes our desires, and this results in our behavior changing.

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

### **Sanctification**

Sanctification means to make holy. And it says that sanctification is done by the Spirit of God. This holiness is not a mere external thing that deals with outward appearances. Any external reformation done in our own power can easily be undone. But sanctification from God starts in our heart. He

changes our nature and gives us new desires. He creates in us a desire for holiness, and that desire for holiness has its foundation in God.

## Joy of the Lord

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### 1. God's command for joy and to show our love to him

There is no other religion on earth that tells its followers that they should be full of joy. Actually, the one true God that created heaven and earth created the human being to be happy. Because of sin we seek to find happiness in material things.

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalms 37:4)

As believers in God, our first desire should be for him. In Psalm 63, we read that our greatest passion and desire should be for God. That is to have our flesh and our soul satisfied with His presence, with worshipping and living for Him. Ultimately, worship is not merely singing songs and praying, but our lives are surrendered to God and we are doing what he asks of us. Many times these things find their expression in singing, lifting our hands and praising. However, sometimes it's found in serving someone in need. It is not a bad thing to feel joy when we do what is God's will. It should be our delight to follow after the plan of God for our lives. And this pleasure we experience flows from the presence of God.

Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)

When times are difficult and there are many struggles, we find that the joy of the Lord is our strength. Being with God in prayer and worship brings such a satisfaction to our lives that we receive strength. Regardless of what the government does to us or what our family does to us, we can be strong because we have a relationship with Jesus Christ and we find joy in Him.

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalms 16:11)

Through the Bible and the Spirit of God the path of life is made known to us. That is, the commands that he has for us to follow are made known in Scripture. And in following the Word of God, by grace we come into the presence of God, and we experience fullness of joy and pleasures for eternity.

When we obey the Word of God (the path of Life) from our heart we experience joy. It is not legalism to obey the Word of God. We are not saved by our obedience, but we make genuine faith known by obeying the Word of God. And in obeying the word of God we experience the joy of The Lord.

### **Abiding in His presence involves surrendering to His commandments**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:9-11)

If we love Jesus, we will listen to what he says and we'll do it. We won't treat what he says lightly or take it as an "either/or" option. We will take his Word to heart and obey it. In other religions, obedience is to be done as a duty. When you are obeying out of duty, joy is not present. In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we obey because of relationship. We obey because we love the Lord Jesus Christ. We obey because it is a delight. We obey because it makes us happy, and Jesus spoke his Word to us so that our joy would be full.

## **2. God restrains our behavior even under the Gospel**

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

There are certain behaviors that we are commanded not to do. If we do them, it demonstrates that we will not inherit the kingdom of God. People who are sexually immoral, worship false gods, commit adultery, are homosexuals, thieves, drunks, partiers, and those who commit extortion will not go to heaven. This behavior is sinful and shuts us out of the kingdom of God. We cannot say that God does not give us commands. *It is not legalistic to tell people to not commit adultery or do homosexual acts or to steal.* **Legalism is doing the commandments of men in order to please men, not obedience to God out of a pure heart.**

Notice that Paul goes directly to an inward work of God in your life. But you are washed, sanctified, and justified by the Spirit of God. This spiritual work affects the external behavior.

With that said, there is a great mistake that has been made by modern Christianity. A great portion of the Word of God has been left off, and people have been allowed to violate it freely. My intention

is not to force you into any kind of behavior, but to point out what the plain teaching of Scripture is. Then you can decide what you want to do. You decide if you want to obey or not. **There is a true Christian identity. We must find God's standard of modesty.**

### 3. For our protection God commands modesty

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:27, 28)

God gives us commands not to be hard on us, but to protect us and guard us from evil. Since men are very visually oriented, they tend to be attracted to a woman physically very quickly. Satan preys upon men this way to cause them to lust. Jesus states that a man that looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart. When a woman presents herself with tight clothing to show off her figure or to reveal certain body parts and a man as a result lusts after her, she is guilty of being a partner in this sin of committing adultery in the heart.

**While the focus may have been on the men's lustful looks in Paul and Jesus' age due to the level of clothing a woman wore, in this age the pendulum has swung back to the woman's field due to the wide levels of immodesty.** That is one of the reasons that Paul wrote these instructions to Timothy for teaching the sisters to dress modestly.

Richard Baxter, 17th Century Puritan Pastor writes in a Christian Directory, that their clothing tends "to the ensnaring of the minds of the beholders in shameless, lustful, wanton passions, though you say, you intend it not, it is your sin, that you do that which probably will procure it, yea, that you did not your best to avoid it. And though it be their sin and vanity that is the cause, it is nevertheless your sin to be the unnecessary occasion: for you must consider that you live among diseased souls! And you must not lay a stumbling-block in their way, nor blow up the fire of their lust, nor make your ornaments their snares; but you must walk among sinful persons, as you would do with a candle among straw or gunpowder; or else you may see the flame which you would not foresee, when it is too late to quench it."

## Two Coverings

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In the book of Genesis we find that after Adam and Eve committed the original sin they felt shame and sought to cover their nakedness. So this is the original form of clothing that sinful man used to clothe himself. “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.” (Genesis 3:7) These aprons that Adam and Eve made to cover themselves are what we would call loin cloths and are basically as much covering as a bikini would offer. So notice, this is the clothing choice of the original sinners. God confronts our parents over their sin and brings a curse upon the serpent, the woman and the earth. After this takes place God himself designs the clothes of Adam and Eve. “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.” (Genesis 3:21) Adam and Eve chose clothing to merely cover their private parts. God brought forth an animal and killed it as a sin offering for them. Then he took that and made it into what the bible calls “coats of skins.” In other words he made them clothing from the skin of the animal that was killed for their sins.

Let’s look more closely at the word “coats” in the Hebrew. The word in Hebrew is kûttōneth. It literally means to cover, but was a specific garment that was worn. The Brown Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon states that kuttoneth means “a long shirt-like garment, usually of linen.” The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says, “Here the “coat” (Hebrew kethōneth) was the ordinary “inner garment” worn by the Jew of the day, in which he did the work of the day (see Mat\_24:18; Mar\_13:16). It resembled the Roman “tunic,” corresponding most nearly to our “long shirt,” reaching below the knees always, and, in case it was designed for dress occasions, reaching almost to the ground.”

So God clothed Adam and Eve in a garment that truly covered their body. It was a shirt like garment that covered from the neck down to below the knees. Effectively God condemned wearing so little clothes as a loin cloth or what we call a bikini. This was immodest dress that exposed their bodies more than what was acceptable for sinners who were to live among sinners. We can see that a modest dress would be something that covers the body from the neck to below the knees, not revealing the breasts or the thighs and not so tight that it is revealing everything anyways.

## Christian Modesty

Likewise also women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. (1 Timothy 2:9, 10)

Before we dig deeper into this verse, I want to acknowledge that God has placed it into the heart of a woman to look beautiful for her husband. He did not make the woman to desire to be beautiful as a primary source of beauty, and he does not purpose that a woman pursue external beauty to the extent that she lays aside the standards that God has set forth in his Word.

Back to the scripture we just wrote about. Paul is dealing with an external issue. Women should wear modest clothing. Sisters in the Lord should wear clothes that clothe their body in a way that would not bring sensual attention to their features. Modest comes from the word *moderate*. An example would be don't eat too little, but don't eat too much. Instead eat a moderate amount of food. Women should wear clothing that does not reveal too much, but they need not dress with a hijab covered from head to toe. Tight clothing that hugs the body or clothing that reveals the body too much should be avoided. It says her clothing should be chosen with "shamefacedness" and also self-control. The word shamefacedness means bashfulness. To be bashful is to be a person that is shy, so choose your clothing in a way that shows that you are shy. Dressing in a way that shows you are shy means that you do not want to show your body off, you want to conceal it and not draw attention to yourself.

***Paul says that women should wear modest apparel. I want to focus on the word apparel in the Greek language. The word apparel in English is a generic term for clothing. There is a generic term for clothing in Greek and that is himatismos, which is translated as "attire" at the end of this verse. However, the term that Paul uses here is katastole. The word katastole signifies a garment that would today be considered a dress. So here we have an important verse that tells us that the garment a sister in the Lord should wear is a dress and not pants. The phrase could also be translated "a modest dress."***

There are many women these days that wear clothes that reveal so much of their body that they are anything but shy. They want to show the whole world their body. This is a shame and should never happen in the life of a real believer. Sometimes the case is that a woman is not aware of how she is dressing and is just following the trends. Instead of following trends we, as people that have given their lives to Christ, should dress according to the heart of Christ. These are not my words, but it is the teaching of Christ himself through his apostles.

When Paul mentions braided hair and gold and pearls, he is saying be balanced (modest) about it. It does not mean you cannot wear a necklace or braid your hair or wear expensive clothing, but be modest with everything you do in your dress.

There are Christians that say that the Bible does not speak about the clothes that we should wear, but only speaks about the heart. As you just read, Paul wrote about it and gave instructions to a pastor on what he should teach. Another principle of Scripture is this:

### **Distinction of the Sexes**

A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God. (Deuteronomy 22:5)

A man should not wear women's clothes, a dress; and a woman should not wear man's clothes, pants. God wants a woman to dress like a woman and a man to dress like a man. Modern society has perverted this and made it normal for women to wear pants. The Word of God says a woman should not do so, and it is an abomination to God if she does it.

Sisters, pants are clothing that pertains to a man. This is the command of God according to Scripture. God desires a separation between the sexes in their clothing and appearance. A man should dress like a man and a woman should dress like a woman.

## Examining History

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### **Root of Pants in Western Civilization**

In the early 1900's a homosexual designer in Paris began to make pants for women. This change in fashion was driven by the feminist movement in Victorian Europe. The women were expressing their rebellion against a society where a man operates in the role as the head of his home and as the head in society. She was expressing the idea that she did not need a man and that she was no longer wanting to be under the authority of a man, as God intended and designed in the Scriptures.

This is the origin of the widespread use of women wearing pants. It wasn't until the 1960's that designers started making blue jeans for women. It was not a normal thing for a woman to wear pants but Satan, through lust and his desire to destroy society, has perverted this. Now, they call what is evil good and they call what is good evil. Women now wear pants that show every curve of their body, and they do it not knowing its a spirit causing them to express that they don't need to be under the authority which God designed. It's a shame!

You say, "Who says that pants pertain to a woman? Culture and times change."

Yes, culture and times change, but the distinctions between the sexes do not. A woman in the general attire of pants is wearing a man's clothes. A feminine article of clothing is not pants, it's a dress or a skirt. A manly article of clothes is pants. This is just common sense and common decency.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (1 John 5:3)

### **Common Decency**

When we go to work for a company, they have a dress code. The dress code pertains to modesty and professionalism. This is a normal practice the world over and no one questions it. Yet, when it comes to the Christian faith, the modern church rejects the idea that God would want us to surrender our will to the point that we would even dress the way he desired. When we submit to God in regard to not having sex before marriage, it is not considered legalism. It is considered obedience, and that obedience protects us and preserves us for our future spouse and for the glory of God. When God commands us to dress modestly and wear clothing that pertains to our manhood or womanhood it is to reflect the character of Christ.

## Is make-up encouraged or discouraged in Scripture?

The motivation for wearing makeup is not modesty or to draw attention to a woman's character. Its motive is outward beauty and not modesty. Scripture does not speak highly of its usage.

It is mentioned at least three times in scripture and never in a positive manner. This excerpt comes from the book "Strange Scriptures To The Western Mind";

Painting does not appear to have been by any means universal among the Hebrews. References to it are few; and in each instance it seems to have been unworthy of a woman of high character. Thus Jezebel, "put her eyes in painting" (2 Kings 9:30). Jeremiah says of the harlot city, "though thou rentest thy face with painting" (Jeremiah 4:30). And Ezekiel again makes it a characteristic of a harlot (Ezekiel 23:40).

Jezebel brought idolatry to the forefront in Israel, she caused her husband Ahab to slip further into wickedness and idol worship. In 2 Kings 9:30 Ahab is dead and Jehu has been ordained of God to bring his wrath upon the house of Ahab. Jezebel learns of this and she decides to take matters into her own hands. She put makeup on her eyes and does her hair up then goes to stand in the window. Though she was a grandmother at the time her purpose was to seduce Jehu into marrying her and thus protecting her life. Then shortly after that she was thrown from the balcony of her home, and dogs came to feed on her dead body. That certainly isn't a positive picture. Here makeup is mentioned in reference to seduction, and the other two times it is mentioned in reference to a prostitute nation that has sought the refuge of other nations instead of its Husband, the LORD God. .

The Scripture says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil," (1 Thessalonians 5:22). The Bible connects the use of make up with idolatry and immorality. In modern society we have made a beautiful woman an idol to worship. Wearing makeup is an immodest thing that draws the attention to outward beauty instead of the inner character of the heart. Why are you wearing make up? Examine your heart.

Makeup dates back thousands of years in pagan societies. Certainly, the Jewish people were negatively influenced by pagan ethnic groups that surrounded them, as we read in the Old Testament. However, it became more prevalent in modern society in the early 20th Century because of the entertainment world and Hollywood. From Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_cosmetics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_cosmetics)

Often times Esther is mentioned as a godly woman that wore make-up. A particular verse is used to prove this, but let's look closely at what it says. "Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;)" (Esther 2:12).

There is not one place in this verse that mentions make-up. All of it is speaking of the purification process for the women. The word “purifications” signifies rubbing and is in regards to perfumes and the word at the end of the verse “purifying” speaks of soap that are scented with perfumes that were to be used along with a bath. The purification process was done to cleanse the skin of young women that lived and worked in perhaps difficult conditions and did not bathe frequently and likely at coarse foods with strong odors. This verse is not in any way speaking of make-up.

### **(Makeup in the US and Europe)**

During the early years of the 20th century, make-up became fashionable in the United States of America and Europe owing to the influence of ballet and theatre stars such as Mathilde Kschessinska and Sarah Bernhardt. But the most influential new development of all was the movie industry in Hollywood. Among those who saw the opportunity for mass-market cosmetics were Max Factor, Sr., Elizabeth Arden, and Helena Rubinstein.

Do we want to follow Hollywood or do we want to follow the word of God? Hollywood glorifies outward beauty and destroys the soul, but God points to inward character and the beauty of holiness. Is modern fashion your Absolute or is the Word of God your Absolute?

Why am I focusing on these outward things?

While in Islamic culture they go to one end of the spectrum, in the West they go to the other end of the spectrum. In Islam a code of ethics is enforced often with the threat of punishment. In the West there is no code of ethics at all, anything goes. Women walk around with absolutely no modesty, showing off their body, painting their faces, wearing tight clothes, and in some cases barely any clothes at all. God calls us to modesty according to the Scriptures.

Remember the High Priest? He was given certain requirements for his clothing, his hair, and his appearance. In Zechariah 3:1-7, when Joshua the High Priest was in the presence of God he had to put on clean garments. He had to put on clothes that were pleasing to God. We are not following Old Testament Law, but we follow the same God that gives us these biblical standards to follow.

## A Covering

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### **Adornment of the inner man vs. outward man**

Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel. But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (1 Peter 3:3, 4)

God's focus is on the beauty of holiness, the inner man, and the character and conduct therefrom. Peter says adorn yourself not with elaborate braids, wearing gold or expensive clothes, but let it be the hidden man of the heart, a meek and quiet spirit. You can wear braids, gold, and clothes, but don't spend the majority of your time focusing on your appearance. Focus on your heart and your attitude; that is what is beautiful in God's eyes. From this inner beauty of holiness and godly character, adorn yourself with modest dress.

### **Earrings**

In Ezekiel 16:12 it speaks of God clothing his Bride, the nation of Israel, "And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head." This of course is a spiritual type of him clothing them with righteousness and ears to hear the truth. We can read that women in the East wore these types of adornments on a normal basis. (Genesis 24:22, Genesis 24:42; Exodus 32:2; Job 42:11; Proverbs 11:22; Isaiah 3:21; Hosea 2:13) Though this was the normal attire for that time, does not mean that it is necessarily a recommended or allowed form of adornment. Let's notice what Jacob commands to his family. This is indeed even after the times that Abraham's servant gave earrings to Rachel (Jacob's mother) for her engagement gift.

God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau." So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone." So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem. (Genesis 35:1-4)

This Scriptures describes how Jacob cleansed his household of idolatry. The people were told to bring him all their foreign gods and the rings in their ears. The people took their earrings out and gave them to Jacob and he buried them. Earrings and idolatry are directly connected. The people often wore amulets on their earrings showing they belonged to and were seeking the blessing of

false gods. Earrings and nose rings are not encouraged in the culture of the Bible; they are connected to idolatry. And idolatry is connected to evil spirits.

## Long Hair

Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? Doth not even nature itself teach you that if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God. (1 Corinthians 11:4-7, 10, 13-16)

## Common Concerns regarding long hair

Some people seek to state this is a cultural issue only and that in the 21st Century we don't have to follow this. However, I want to start by listing four points that reveal this is not merely cultural.

1. Paul references the headship of man. This is not a cultural issue, it is an eternal truth.
2. Paul states this should be done "because of the angels" - there is no cultural boundary to angels.
3. Paul states that the churches of God have only one custom. That is, all the churches throughout the world have this custom. There is not one custom in Macedonia, another in Asia, and another in Israel. There is only one custom (or practice) for the church. It does not vary by culture.
4. **The Roman empire spanned many different cultures during Paul's time. He did not single out any as being excepted from this natural law.**

Paul is talking about two things. One, the normal customs of the time. Two, the eternal truth. First he speaks of a veil or a covering that was common for women to wear in his time. They covered their hair with a veil for the sake of showing modesty. This was done throughout the Roman and Middle Eastern world at the time. The Corinthian women were rejecting this idea and Paul asked that it be continued. Wearing a veil was a cultural means of displaying that a woman was under the authority of her husband. This is no longer the practice of our time.

However, there is an eternal truth here and that is the distinction between sexes regarding hair. He references headship of man, angelic beings, and nature. A man should have short hair and a woman should have long hair. This is not merely a human custom, but this is an important

distinction that God makes between man and woman. The Word of God says it is a shameful thing for a woman to have short hair.

***The word used for covering is a veil. Paul writes that a woman should wear a veil while praying or prophesying. Then he makes this statement that reveals what kind of veil he is referencing, "her hair is given her for a covering." In other words, her hair is given to her to be her veil. Whether a scarf is worn or not is irrelevant. God tells us a woman's hair was given to her as her veil. This is a natural thing that God gave from the beginning of time, a woman's long hair and a man's short hair. The Bible says a woman's long hair is her glory.***

*In the time of Paul's writing, there were two reasons a woman would cut her hair, one if her husband died and she was in mourning, and the next would be if it was done forcibly as a punishment for prostitution. According to the Bible it is a shameful thing for a woman to cut her hair; and if she does it, it is the same as though she were dishonoring her head, her husband.*

A man with long hair is doing something shameful and humiliating himself, but a woman with long hair is showing the honor of her womanhood. Sisters keep your hair long, don't cut it or trim it, just let it grow. In the times of mourning for the loss of her husband a woman would cut off her hair. The women desired to avoid this custom and to show they were still mourning their husband they simply trimmed the ends of their hair. It is not a normal thing for a woman to cut her hair at all. She is to let it grow according to the teaching of the Bible. And a man should have short hair to show he is honoring his head, Jesus Christ. A man with long hair is dishonoring Christ according to the Bible.

## Conclusion

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Jesus said if you love me keep my words. The words of Jesus are what we read in the Scripture, and his commands are not to be burdensome. They are to protect us and preserve us so that we can truly manifest the character of Jesus Christ.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (1 John 4:18)

These are not words of fear to control your life. They are words of God to preserve your character and bring honor and glory to God.

I ask one thing of you, Brothers and Sisters, pray about what you have read. Search the Scriptures and pray earnestly, asking God what he would have you to do about what you read. If you are not filled with the Spirit, then its important that you first get filled with the Spirit. When you are filled with the Spirit, you can know the Spirit of truth will guide

There are several additional booklets that can be obtained that were written by Jason DeMars. To order them go to <http://contendingforthemessage.com/store/>

### **God's Basic Instructions**

In this book I cover the basics of the Christian faith from the perspective of the message. Without going into great depth on each subject yet covering the details of the new birth, law and grace, the Ten Commandments, the three ordinances, the Godhead and Prayer. The main purpose of this book is to provide a foundation to those who have grown up in the message and for those seeking a foundation of which to build upon their understanding of the truth.

### **Amazing Gift**

This is a booklet that is evangelistic in nature. It presents the Gospel and addresses several objections against it that we face in the Western Culture.

### **The Apostolic Message**

In this book I examine what the apostles preached in the book of Acts to determine both their doctrine and salvational message. While modern Christianity has arrived at various creeds that express what a Christian must believe, let's examine the undiluted Gospel as it was preached and proclaimed by the apostles in the book of Acts.

you into all truth. (John 16:13)