

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: I Samuel 16:7 “But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for *man looks at the outward appearance*, but the LORD looks at the heart.’”

Quote: A worthy walk involves far more than our actions; it also includes our ambition, our attitude and our appearance.

The condition of our hearts is of ultimate importance in the sight of God. And yet, we cannot truly honor Him unless our actions and our appearance, both of which are prominent in the sight of others, are guided by principles from God’s Word and not by “political correctness” or popular culture. That does not mean that we cannot be “fashionable;” it does mean, however, that faithfulness to living holy lives must be first and foremost. Solomon’s wise advice offers an excellent filter for our decisions about how we act and appear before others. “Trust in the LORD with *all your heart*, And lean not on your own understanding; *In all your ways acknowledge Him*, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; *Fear the LORD and depart from evil.*”¹ When we view all of life with awe and adoration for God, and we guard and guide our thoughts, words and deeds by His Word for His glory, we can ensure that our testimony will be commendable. Paul wrote, “For those who live according to the flesh *set their minds on the things of the flesh*, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”² The Apostle John put it this way. “*Do not love the world or the things in the world.* If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”³ What motivates the decisions that you make concerning your testimony before others? Is it love for God and desire for His approval, or is it self-promotion, love of the world and a desire to “fit in?”

Three other areas to consider when it comes to dress—

Don’t be ostentatious— “attracting or seeking to attract attention, admiration, or envy often by gaudiness or obviousness; overly elaborate.”⁶ Showiness is a sign of vanity and pride.⁴ The emphasis in Scripture is upon living a holy lifestyle that is “unpolluted or unstained by evil,”⁴ and characterized by humility and self-control.

Dress with distinction, or in accordance with the biological sex that God made you.⁵ The Bible forbids transvestism (“the practice of adopting the dress, the manner, and sometimes the sexual role of the opposite sex”)⁶

Beware of worldly associations. The fashion industry’s appeal is to pride and to fitting in with the culture. Dress does not have to be a matter of modesty to cause concern, or draw undue attention. Worldly means “devoted to this world and its pursuits rather than to religion or spiritual affairs.”⁶

God’s A Honor Roll, Appearance, Part II

Jesus laid a foundation for the truth that every area of our life should clearly be addressed with our testimony in view. “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”⁷ Like salt’s influence on food, we are to act as a “preservative” and an “enhancer” of moral purity in a society that is becoming morally bankrupt. Like light, we are to offer clarity, hope and direction in a world that is immersed in spiritual darkness. Our appearance must demonstrate a clear and commendable testimony in all places and at all times. God has graciously made us “holy nobility.”⁸ It should be obvious to others that we take the command to be godly seriously.⁹

1 Prov.3:5-7 2 Rom.8:5-6 3 1 John 2:15-16 4 I Peter 3:3-4; I Tim.2:8-10; M.S. Bible 5 Deut.22:5; Psa.139:13-16; Rom.1:26-27 6 Webster 7 Matt.5:13-14 8 Matt.5:13-16 9 Titus 2:12; Heb.12:28-29