

Does Our Speech, Dress, and Overall Appearance Matter Toward God?

By Michael Wright

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” ([Romans 15:4](#))

I. [Nehemiah 13:23-24](#) speaks of the ways and language of a people known as “Ashdod”.

“In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.”

Will we be influenced by religious traditions around about us and speak and dress after the pattern of our religious neighbors or after the pattern of the Word of God?

Those that stood for restoring the pattern of the New Testament in the United States during the 1800's, pleaded with Biblical reason, the motos of:

- Insist on speaking as the **BIBLE** speaks ([1Pet.4:11](#); [Phil.1:27](#)).
 - Insist on being silent where the **Bible** is silent ([Lev.10:1-2](#); [Deut.17:3](#); [Prov.30:6](#); [Heb.7:14](#)).
 - Insist on doing Bible things in **Bible ways** ([Jer.6:16](#); [1Pet.2:21](#); [Jn.13:15](#); [Phil.4:9](#); [Heb.8:5](#)).
 - Insist on calling Bible things by **Bible names** ([Col.3:17](#); [Acts 4:12](#)).
- A. Regarding our speech, christians today have an obligation and responsibility to,
- “**SPEAK** as the oracles of God” ([1Pet.4:11](#)),
 - “**SPEAK** thou the things which become sound doctrine” ([Titus 2:1](#)) or “sound **SPEECH**” ([Titus 2:7-8](#)),
 - “know how ye ought to **ANSWER** every man” ([Col.4:6](#)),
how one answers, necessarily has to do with one's speech.
 - The Bible teaches that we have a responsibility to bridle our **TONGUE** ([Jms.1:26](#)),
 - Don't let “foolish **TALKING**, nor jesting” be “named among you” ([Eph.5:1-9](#)),
 - “**PUT** off, ... **FILTHY communication** **OUT** of your **MOUTH**” ([Col.3:8](#); [Eph.4:29](#)).

The Bible says,

- “the **TONGUE** is a fire, a **WORLD** of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it **DEFILETH** the whole **BODY**, and **SETTETH** on **FIRE** the course of nature; and it is **SET** on **FIRE** of **HELL**. ...the tongue can no man tame; it is an **UNRULY evil**, **FULL** of **DEADLY poison**. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be” ([James 3:6-10](#)).

[Proverbs 18:21](#) says,

- “Death and life are in the **POWER** of the tongue” (Read also, [James 3:6-10](#)).

The question is, will we promote **LIFE** with our tongue, or will we promote **DEATH**? Jesus said,

- “But I say unto you, That **EVERY** idle **WORD** that men shall **SPEAK**, they shall **GIVE account** thereof in the day of judgment. For **BY** thy **WORDS** thou shalt be justified, and **BY** thy **WORDS** thou shalt be condemned” ([Matt.12:36-37](#)).

B. Regarding our dress and overall appearance,

Christians also have an obligation and responsibility to,

- **NOT** dress “with the **ATTIRE** of an harlot, and subtil of heart” ([Prov.7:10](#)).
- But rather Fully cover themselves ([Gen.3:7](#); [3:21](#); [Ex.28:42-43](#)).
- “...**ADORN** themselves in **MODEST** apparel, **WITH** shamefacedness and sobriety; **NOT** with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; **BUT** (which becometh women **PROFESSING** godliness) with **GOOD WORKS.**” ([1Tim.2:9-10](#)).
- So that we can aid in **PROTECTING** one another from sin ([Matt.5:27-28](#); [Matt.18:6](#); [2Tim.2:22](#)),

Christians should adequately prepare with proper attire.

- We should prepare ourselves for the wedding ([Matt.22:11-13](#));
Even more so, should we prepare ourselves for the Worship of the **ALMIGHTY!**
- God is greater than any King on Earth and Joseph prepared his attire to appear before the ruler of his day ([Gen.41:14](#)).

The Bible says,

- “Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we **GAVE** them **REVERANCE**: shall we not much rather **BE** in **SUBJECTION** unto the **FATHER** of spirits, and **LIVE?**” ([Heb.12:9](#)).

Christians are to “glorify God **IN** your **BODY**, and in your spirit, which **ARE** God's” ([1Cor.6:19-20](#)).

One’s physical body is for glorifying God, **NOT** for drawing attention after self; **NOT** for glorifying self.

- When one color’s or dye’s their hair and cuts their hair to that custom of a “punk rocker” (for lack of a better term), are they glorifying God or self? ...I suggest to you that such an appearance is an attempt to rebel against society and such individuals want everyone to know about their rebellion, and thus the reason for drawing attention to themselves. Others do so, because they are negatively influenced and don’t know any better.
- When one pierces their body, such as through the nose, tongue, lip and all over, are they glorifying God or self?
- When one tattoo’s their body, are they glorifying God or self?
Many times a person will expose themselves and thus become immodest, just to **GET** a tattoo.
And then dress immodestly, so they can then **EXPOSE** the tattoo.

Just like we are to have “**sound speech**” ([Titus 2:7-8](#)), we are to generally be “**sound in the faith**” ([Titus 1:13](#)), which would include being sound in modest dress and appearance.

Friends, both our speech, dress and overall appearance is of upmost importance. We are to be distinctly or clearly associated with things that belong to God ([Mk.12:17](#)) – we are to be separate from this world, so that our,

- “...**WHOLE** spirit and soul and body be **KEPT** blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” ([1Thess.5:23](#)).

II. **It is possible to profane Holy things and it is possible to make Sacred or Holy things, as common, profane or unclean.**

The Bible says,

- In [Ezekiel 44:23](#) – “they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean”.
- [1Pet.1:15-16](#) says – Christians are to be holy – they are not to be common or unclean
- In [Rom.1:2](#), we find that – the scriptures are holy
- [Eph.5:27](#) says – the church is holy
- We are told in [Heb.7:26](#) that – we have a holy high priest
- [Heb.10:29](#) informs us that – people can profane themselves and regard the blood of Christ as profane.

Some try to make holy things unholy and the reverse is true also, some try to make common things holy.

Some tried to make words of men holy in [1Cor.1:18-31](#).

- “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye **SEPARATE**, saith the Lord, and touch not the **UNCLEAN** thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” ([2Cor.6:17-18](#)).
- Be careful not to allow your spiritual birthright to be stolen, by being a **PROFANE** person ([Heb.12:16](#))

III. **In both the old and new testaments, we can find scripture that would direct one to DO their very best, especially in spiritual matters.**

Notice these passages:

- “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, **DO** it with thy **MIGHT**; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest” ([Ecc.9:10](#)).
- “And whatsoever ye do, **DO** it **HEARTILY**, as to the Lord, and not unto men;” ([Col.3:23](#)).

The Bible makes it very clear that the physical body is of less importance than the spiritual.

- “For bodily exercise profiteth **LITTLE**: but godliness is **PROFITABLE** unto **ALL** things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.” ([1Tim.4:8](#))
- “**GODLINESS** with **CONTENTMENT** is great **GAIN**.” ([1Tim.6:6](#))
- And so., we should prepare and equip ourselves to enjoy the best life a person can experience on this Earth and for the eternal life to come.

IV. Do We Have A Proper Attitude Toward God?

Notice these few passages:

- “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him **MUST** worship Him in **SPIRIT** and in **TRUTH**” ([Jn.4:23-24](#)).
- “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **FEAR** God, and **KEEP** His Commandments; for this is the **WHOLE** of man” ([Ecc.12:13](#); [Deut.13:4](#)).
- “He that **FEARETH** Him, and worketh **RIGHTOUSNESS**, is acceptable with Him” ([Acts 10:35](#)).

The phrases

- “In Truth” ([Jn.4:24](#)),
- “Keep His Commandments” ([Ecc.12:13](#))
- and “worketh righteousness” ([Acts 10:35](#)),

all have to do with the Biblical **FACTS** of how we are all, to please God.

The phrases:

- “In Spirit” ([Jn.4:24](#)),
- and “Fear God” ([Ecc.12:13](#)),

has to do with one’s **ATTITUDE** toward God.

Isn’t that what reverence toward God is all about?

...The right attitude toward God, coupled with the right **BIBLICAL** facts of what God expects of His followers.

- “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may **SERVE** God **ACCEPTABLY** with **REVERENCE** and godly **FEAR**.” ([Heb.12:28](#)).
- “Fruthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them **REVERENCE**: shall we not much rather **BE** in **SUBJECTION** unto the **FATHER** of spirits, and **LIVE**” ([Heb.12:9](#))?

I suggest to you, that one’s speech, dress and overall appearance reflects an attitude of either rebellion or of reverence. Which attitude will you have?

- “The **FEAR** of the LORD is the **BEGINNING** of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction” ([Prov.1:7](#)).

V. Some Concluding Thoughts:

- If we are to keep from looking and acting like the world, including the religious traditions around about us ([Nehemiah 13:23-24](#); [2Cor.6:17](#));
- If we are to make safeguards against making that which is holy, common or visa versa ([2Cor.6:17](#); [Ezekiel 44:23](#)); **HINT**: The worship of the **ALMIGHTY** God is **NOT** common, but **HOLY**.
- If we are to **DO** our very best ([Ecc.9:10](#); [Col.3:23](#)) – especially in Spiritual matters that belong to God ([Lk.20:25](#)),
- And if we are to have the right, **REVERENTIAL** attitude toward God ([Prov.1:7](#); [Heb.12:28](#))...

Then wouldn’t one’s speech, dress and overall appearance MATTER, both in our every day living and in our collective assemblies? [by the way, I’m not talking about thinking less of those who may be wearing what some might consider rags for clothing, when such might be their best ([James 2:2-5](#)) – I’m talking about those in the U.S. who can afford to properly dress, but **CHOOSE** not to.]

- A. If one is to equip themselves with the sword of the spirit, the Word of God ([Eph.6:17](#)), in their **DRESS** and **APPEARANCE**, they will,
- **NOT** dress “with the **ATTIRE** of an harlot...” ([Prov.7:10](#)).
 - That is, don’t wear clothes that are so SHORT or TIGHT, that it reveals the anatomy of your body.

If one is to equip themselves with the sword of the spirit, the Word of God ([Eph.6:17](#)), In their **DRESS** and **APPEARANCE**, they will,

- Fully cover themselves ([Gen.3:7](#); [3:21](#); [Ex.28:42-43](#)), which would exclude a partial covering.

If one is to equip themselves with the sword of the spirit, the Word of God ([Eph.6:17](#)), In their **DRESS** and **APPEARANCE**, they will,

- “...**ADORN** themselves in **MODEST** apparel, **WITH** shamefacedness and sobriety; **NOT** with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; **BUT** (which becometh women **PROFESSING** godliness) with **GOOD WORKS.**” ([1Tim.2:9-10](#)).
 - To dress **MODESTLY** (Strong’s# 2887 & 127), is to
 - fully cloth oneself in such a way that is not too short or too tight or having a sense of shame
 - objective in reverence
 - having regard to others (don’t cause other to sin)
 - dress in such a way that prevents shameful acts
 - To dress with “**shamefacedness and sobriety**” (Strong’s# 4997), is to dress
 - with that of a sound mind
 - with self-control
 - curbing one’s own desires and impulses
 - To NOT dress with “**broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array**”
 - Is not to dress or appear flashy
 - Don’t dress in such a way that will draw attention to yourself, such as with awkwardly groomed hair, body piercings and tattoos – these are the ways of the World and Christians are to separate themselves from this world ([2Cor.6:17](#))
 - To dress by that which professes godliness with good works”
 - Is to simply dress as a christian.

Do you think it is okay to wear anything but your best in the worship of the Almighty?

- Would it be acceptable to dress casually in a job interview, funeral or a wedding?
We usually dress our best, because such reflects one's thoughtful and proper **ATTITUDE** toward those individuals of that **SPECIAL** occasion.
- Ladies and gentlemen, I'm here to tell you that the assembly of the saints is a very **SPECIAL** occasion that affords christians an **OPPORTUNITY** to reverence God in their dress, overall appearance AND speech, which reflects their attitude!

Suggestions regarding dress in worship:

- Men and ladies should avoid wearing flip flops, shorts and a t-shirt. Down dressing doesn't do anything but draw attention to oneself and thus become a distraction. For the like reason, I would urge all to avoid body piercing and tattoos and if you made the mistake of getting one in the past, have them removed or cover them up.

In the United States, one could accurately state that a business suit and tie for men and a lengthy dress for ladies, would be the custom for dressing one's best. In other countries, a nice robe might be the custom.

Some might say, "well, I can't afford a suit or nice dress". I'm confident that one will make great sacrifices to buy the things they are interested in, such as a boat, RV, guns, a new truck, a family vacation, a remodeled kitchen, etc. I'm equally confident that most folks in the U.S. can afford to set aside some funds to properly dress themselves in worship, if they have the proper attitude toward God – if God is their priority ([Matt.6:33](#), [Matt.22:37-38](#), [Matt.10:37](#)).

We suggest, that a modest suit for men and lengthy dress for ladies, is a cautious, **OPTIONAL** way to demonstrate **REVERENCE** toward God in their **DRESS**.

- B. If one is to equip themselves with the sword of the spirit, the Word of God ([Eph.6:17](#)), in their **SPEECH**, they will,
- **“SPEAK as the oracles of God”** ([1Pet.4:11](#)),
 - **“SPEAK thou the things which become sound doctrine”** ([Titus 2:1](#)) or **“sound SPEECH”** ([Titus 2:7-8](#)),

Do you think it would be okay to address God as “Daddy” or “the man upstairs”?

- In a court of law, can one get by with addressing the judge as “hey you”?
- It would be extremely wise to address or speak with God, in the most reverential way possible.

Suggestions regarding speech in worship:

- For certain, addressing God as “the man upstairs” would be the opposite of reverence, As God in heaven is a spirit ([Jn.4:24](#)).
- God the Son simply referred to him as “Father” or “Heavenly Father”.

In the past, it was **NOT** uncommon to find those who used the words, “Thee”, “Thou” or “Thine” toward God in prayer.

The English language doesn’t have a singular pronoun, but rather plural pronouns, “Ye”, “You”, and “Your”. One determines who is being spoken to in the English written language, by the context.

Have you ever read from an English Bible translation and found it difficult to know who was being spoken to, with the terms, “Ye”, “You” or “Your”? The King James Version of the Bible and the American Standard Version of 1901, both use the singular pronouns, “Thee”, “Thou” and “Thine”, so that there is no doubt who is being spoken to – a single person, versus a plurality of persons.

For the like reason, some in the past gave the explanation,

- “Since we pray to God the Father ([Matt.6:1,4,6,8-13](#), [Lk.11:2](#), [Col.1:3](#), [Heb.12:9](#), [1Pet.1:3](#), [1Jn.1:3](#)) – a singular personality of the Godhead ([Acts 17:29](#), [Rom.1:20](#), [Col.2:9](#)), then maybe it would be more appropriate to reference God the Father, with the singular pronouns, “Thee”, “Thou” or “Thine”.

Some of the older dictionary’s confirm this practice. In Webster’s Unabridged New Twentieth Century Dictionary Of The English Language [Standard Reference Works Publishing Company, Inc. – New York – 1956] on page 1783, it reads:

- “Thou is still used in poetry and in addressing the Deity.”
 - “To use the thou of a superior to.”
 - “adopted in the language of solumn prayer.”
- I am convinced that the State of Texas Pledge uses “thee” in reference to the great state, because of **REVERENCE**. “Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to **THEE**, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.”

We suggest to you, that addressing God as “heavenly father” is a safe and cautious approach in addressing God in prayer and therefore showing **REVERENCE**.

In addition, we suggest that using the singular pronouns, “Thee”, “Thou” or “Thine” while addressing God in prayer, is an **OPTIONAL way** to demonstrate **REVERENCE** toward God in **SPEECH**.