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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: **Should you "come as you are" to church?**

As I drive by different church buildings I notice some churches have a message on their sign that reads, "Come as you are." I'm not exactly sure what is meant by this statement.

**Does "come as you are" refer to the clothes people wear?** If so, this statement is saying, no matter what you are wearing, just come on into the worship services of the church. What are we to think about this?

- If a man is riding around without a shirt and with shorts on, should he just stop and "come as he is"?
- If a woman is riding around in shorts or tight pants and is wearing a tight, suggestive shirt, should she just stop and "come as she is"?

Should there be no standards in dress when people come to the services of the church?

What is happening in our society is that, instead of asking people to change and try to live a better life, the church of our society is the one changing. People are not expected to change at all. The church is the one expected to change. Rather than people being expected to change and live on a higher standard, the church is changing and lowering its standards to accommodate any and every thing imaginable.

**The "come as you are" philosophy** is saying to people: *"Don't put on your best clothes to come worship God. Don't show respect to God or His church by how you dress. As a matter of fact, God doesn't care how you dress. Just come as you are. You could not possibly insult God or His church by how you dress."*

My friend, God does care how you dress.

### **1 Timothy 2:9-10**

9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,

10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

My friend, no matter what society may be saying, it does matter how you dress yourself. How you dress when you come to worship says something about your respect for God and His church.

As a matter of fact, how people dress outside the services of the church tells something about their respect for God.

- When young men (or even not so young men) tattoo their bodies, wear baggy pants that are about to drop to their ankles, pierce their bodies, expose their bodies and dare anyone to say anything about their appearance, they are advertising rebellion. They are not advertising respect for God.
- When young women (or even not so young women) tattoo their bodies, pierce their bodies (*and listen – I'm not talking about a woman who just gets her ears pierced to wear ear rings – I'm talking about body piercings – all over their faces, all over their bodies*) when they do this and when they expose their bodies and wear revealing or suggestive clothing and dare anyone to say anything about their appearance, they are advertising rebellion. They are not advertising respect for God.

### **1 Samuel 15:23**

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. ...

People do not have a right to tattoo and pierce their bodies. Listen to what God told His people in the days of Moses:

### **Leviticus 19:28**

28 You shall not make any **cuttings in your flesh** for the dead, nor **tattoo any marks on you**: I am the LORD.

### **Leviticus 21:5**

5 'They shall not make any bald place on their heads, nor shall they shave the edges of their beards nor make any **cuttings in their flesh**.

There is a reason why people should not tattoo and pierce their bodies. There is a reason why people should not expose their bodies. Are you ready for the reason? The reason is: ***the human body belongs to the Lord, not to the individual.*** The body is a gift from God to man:

### **1 Corinthians 6:20**

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore **glorify God in your body** and in your spirit, **which are God's.**

Because your body belongs to God and not to you, you should glorify God in your body. Rather than conforming to the rebellious world, people should be looking into the scriptures and trying to see how God wants them to dress themselves and conduct their lives.

### **Romans 12:1-2**

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present **your bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Listen ... there are standards of dress and conduct in the scriptures. Churches today are lowering standards to accommodate what is popular. This is wrong. The church should be the "*pillar and ground of the truth*" (1 Tim. 3:15). Truth doesn't change. People should change and conform their lives to the truth.

We'll talk more about this next week.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.