



We Are Different Sunday August 27, 2006

1 Peter 2:9

A holy nation = a consecrated race

His own special people = literal meaning: a people for a possession;
therefore which belong to him, and to no other

To proclaim = to publish, to celebrate, to make known, proclaim, make clear,

The praises = virtues, perfections, excellencies, good qualities

Called out of darkness into His marvelous light

I was once in darkness – I lived as others in darkness, darkness was my “culture”, darkness determined my lifestyle.

Now I am in the light – I live as others in the light, light is my “culture”, light determines my lifestyle.

Darkness in the New Testament:

- a place where those doing evil deeds hide (John 3:19)
- the power of satan (Acts 26:18)
- those who are spiritually blind (Romans 2:19)
- the realm in which the unsaved live, the realm of unrighteousness, the realm of satan (2 Corinthians 6:14,15)
- the demonic rulers of darkness – the realm where demons operate (Ephesians 6:12)

Light in the New Testament:

- Jesus is the Light. Those following Him will not walk in darkness (John 8:12; 12:46)
- The kingdom of the Lord Jesus...we are delivered from the power of darkness and translated into His Kingdom (Colossians 1:13)
- we are children of the day (1 Thessalonians 5:5)
- God is light there is no darkness in Him (1 John 1:5,6)

Ephesians 5:8,11 You were darkness, but now you are light

Vs 11 – I am not to participate in the unfruitful works of darkness

Romans 12:1-2

Vs 2

Conformed = to take on the form, fashion, or appearance of another. It could refer to any habit, manner, dress, style of living, etc., of others.

Age Gr. Aion = age, or generation of people.

Transformed = put on another form

There is supposed to be a real and radical difference in my way of living.

Vs 2 “Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking”
(Message Bible)

The Word of God is higher authority than the culture I live in.



Understand that the culture we live in is more influenced by darkness than light!

I do not live according to the culture of the world but according to the culture of light – the culture of the Kingdom that I am in. This Kingdom culture is spelled out for me in the Word of God.

What may be acceptable in my culture may contradict the written Word of God – and God expects me to obey His Word.

When you live as one in the light you are going to be a different person. You are going to be that consecrated person, His own special person who is publishing the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His own light.

We're Different!

1. We're Different because we are committed to Integrity & Honesty

1 Peter 2:12

Honorable = honest, virtuous, good, beautiful

Maintaining integrity at School/College

You choose not to cheat in your exams. You choose to be honest in your work, assignments, etc.

Maintaining integrity as professionals / as employees

When applying for jobs – don't lie on your resume.

Illustration: Applying for my first job outside of academia.

Illustration: Some recent interviews

Don't misuse office facilities/privileges. Titus 2:9,10

Even if others are doing it – remember we're different!

Giving what you are being paid for. Philippians 2:14,15

Maintaining integrity as Employers

Employers – pay your employees on time. Don't hold back what is rightfully theirs.

Don't exploit. Don't hold back wages. Leviticus 19:13, Jeremiah 22:13

Employers – do not threaten or mistreat your employees. No abuse. No threats. Ephesians 6:9

Maintaining integrity in every day things

- Speech
- Use of money

2. We're Different because we are committed to Purity & Modesty

1 Peter 2:11



Young ladies

The following is an excerpt from a transcript of a broadcast on familylife.com.... 'Dedicated to Modesty' where they had Rebecca St. James (Christian rock artist) as a guest. Here are the highlights:

Rebecca: Yes, I mean, I suppose I have placed my own sense of attractiveness in different things. You know, because I know that the kind of things that I wear draw a certain kind of guy. And ultimately the guy that I want to have as a husband is a guy that's committed to purity. He doesn't want to lust. You know, and so he - by what I'm wearing, if I'm dressing kind of seductively in what I'm wearing, I'm going to be attracting a guy that is okay with that, and it almost says that I'm impure, but that he's okay with that; whereas, if I'm dressing modestly, it's going to attract a guy that respects that and appreciates that. So I'm okay with dressing that way.

Rebecca: I like to wear funky, cool, modern clothes, and to find things that are modest and are not showing too much flesh and are not too tight. It's very, very hard to find that. But it's such a worthwhile battle, because I so believe in being modest and not leading other young girls to do the wrong thing but also not causing my brothers in Christ to stumble and to lust.

You know, a lot of times my dad, if he thinks that something, you know, is a little bit more on the edge than what I usually wear, he'll say, "Oh, that's a boy-getter outfit." So he'll kind of tease me about it, but it's something that, really, he has a problem with, he'll come straight to me. Sometimes Dad has this, I think, little girl, little daughter impression, you know, that makes him maybe be a little bit more critical of something that I would wear. Mom kind of balances him out. And so I think between the two of them, you know, over my teen years, especially, I've gotten some good balanced feedback. If it was just my dad, it might have been a little bit more erring to one side, especially the conservative side.

They always encouraged me, and I suppose, especially my Mom through how she dressed, to wear things that were not showing too much skin, skirts and shorts that weren't too short, things that weren't too, too tight. It's like I always knew, deep down, that that was the right way to go, too. And I wanted to live that way, too. I didn't want to do something that would displease my parents, and I didn't want to do something that would displease God or hurt other people. And so I think it's my own sense of responsibility, as a Christian, before God, that I want to do the right thing.

It's interesting, when I first started out in music, coats were kind of the in thing, and so that's fine, because, you know, you can be really modest with coats. Coats aren't quite so cool right now. You know, funky tops and, a lot of times, a lot of flesh showing in these tops is, kind of, the thing that you see on TV, you know, at the stores, and trying to find something that is modest and funky and cool is difficult.



I have a few guidelines that I use for the things that I wear, both onstage and off. One of the things that I am very aware of is I want to wear pants, especially onstage, going around, you know, in a skirt would be very difficult, especially since I sing rock music. Also making sure that what I wear is not too tight, like showing every single curve. Like, even the top that I'm wearing right now, if I wore it just as it is, it would be very, very tight, but I'm wearing two shirts underneath it so that it's not quite so form-fitting. That's something that can really lead a guy on in a bad way.

Rebecca: It does, and we had a speaker at our church share with girls in our youth group a few years ago, and she said, "We have guys coming to this youth group complaining because they don't know where to look." You know, they're coming to worship God and to draw closer to Him, and they're seeing girls that have such tight clothes and not enough on, and they just don't know where to look. And so it's so distracting. Modesty is so key. A lot of girls, I think, don't understand the power of how you dress and the impact it has on a brother in the Lord, on guys.

Taken from www.familylife.com

Scriptural basis for purity and modesty in dressing:

1 Timothy 2:8-10

Vs 9

Modest apparel

Propriety = modesty, reverence

Moderation = discretion, self-control

Vs 10

The kind of clothes and jewellery a Christian lady wears must proclaim/announce godliness (GOD-LIKE-NESS). Godliness = devoutness, piety.

Titus 2:4,5

Be discreet = sober, self-controlled, virtuous

Be chaste = clean, innocent, modest, pure

Even if others are doing it – remember we're different!

Some Christian young ladies may state that they wear what they wear for comfort – even if it is showing too much flesh, is tight fitting showing every curve. They then say that if guys are turned on – it is the guy's problem. But this argument does not hold water:

1. The kind of clothes you wear draws certain kinds of guys. What kind of a husband do you want? – some one full of lust who falls for flesh and who has no control over his sexual appetite? Or do you want some one who is focused on modesty and purity?
2. Women are instructed in God's word in dress in a way that "professes godliness", i.e. shows devoutness, piety, purity and modesty.

Given these two facts (and there are more), Christian young ladies definitely need to be responsible about their dressing.



Some argue that the way of dressing is a cultural thing – and what is unacceptable here in India may well be acceptable in a western culture.

Response: While it is true that various cultures have their own characteristic style of dressing – we must remember that as Christians we are called to obey the standards set for us in the Word, regardless of our culture. While maintaining the style of clothing that may be characteristic to our culture, we must more importantly ensure that we obey the standards set forth in the Word which is to be modest, chaste, and pure and that which professes godliness. God expects ALL of His people – whether in India, America, Australia, Europe or Asia, or elsewhere to adhere to this.

Young Men

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 ; 5:22

Be careful little eyes what you see.

You cannot prevent the first look. But you can avoid the second glance.

Refuse the second glance because the second glance can be fatal!

Even if others are doing it – remember we're different!

Dating Issues

Avoid getting physically involved when dating.

Avoid going to places where you are likely to do things that you do not want other to know.

Avoid be alone with just the two of you (e.g. behind closed doors).

Even if others are doing it – remember we're different!

Parents – need to guide their Teens and Twenties

Parents, don't expect the church to do all the talking to your teens and twenties. You need to talk to your teens and twenties and set the standards for purity and modesty as given to us in the Word. As long as your young-adult is living with you – she/he is under your care and you are responsible to instruct them and hold them accountable to standards of godliness. **DON'T EXPECT THE CHURCH TO DO WHAT GOD HOLDS YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR!!**

Parents – don't be "spineless". Speak up! Raise the standards with your young-adults!

Married Couples need to maintain purity

Husbands/wives find your sexual needs met within your marriage. Refuse to look outside.

Even if others are doing it – remember we're different!

Conclusion

You make a choice:



- To get rid of the deeds of darkness - Cast off the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light (Romans 13:12)
- To live by the word of God – allow God's Word to shape your lifestyle, choices, etc.

Even if others are doing it – remember we're different!

Be Different!



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YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

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DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

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