

Immodest Adornment

The premise is that God wants us to respond to Him in covenant relationship, i.e., He will be our God and provide (Jehovah-Jireh) for us everything that we need, and we shall be His people responding to His initiation by loving the Lord our God with all our hearts and with all our souls and with all our strength and with all our mind. In other words, if God initiates the thought that you are to stop wearing jewelry, then respond accordingly, but not sooner than God initiating.

The analogy in the Bible is clear that Christ is the bridegroom, and we the church His bride. Having said this, consider my observations of the following verses:

1 Peter 3: 1-5 adorn as in subjection to your husband! (*not prostitution*). 1. Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2. While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4. 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. 5. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

1 Timothy 2:9, 10 adorn with good works. 9. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10. But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

Revelation 17:4 *the whore church* – known by dress and decked with precious stones. 4. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

Hosea 2:13 *God's judgment against idolatrous Israel* – who decked herself with earrings and jewelry. 13. And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the Lord.

Ezekiel 23:40 *Wore eye make-up to seduce men*. 40. And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, (BC note 4:660 - powdered antimony, black, to produce a margin around the eyes so as to make the white of the eyes look more beautiful and seducing.) and deckedst thyself with ornaments, 41. And satest upon a stately bed, and a table prepared before it, whereupon thou hast set mine incense and mine oil. 42. And a voice of a multitude being at ease was with her: and with the men of the common sort were brought Sabeans from the wilderness, which put Bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads.

43. Then said I unto her that was old in adulteries, Will they now commit whoredoms with her, and she with them?

Jeremiah 4:30 *God's people decked out = judgment.* 30. And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life.

Isaiah 3:16-19 *pride of God's people with earrings, nose rings = judgment.* 16. Moreover Jehovah said, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with outstretched necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet; 17. therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and Jehovah will lay bare their secret parts. 18. In that day the Lord will take away the beauty of their anklets, and the cauls, and the crescents; 19. the pendants, and the bracelets, and the mufflers; 20. the headtiaras, and the ankle chains, and the sashes, and the perfume-boxes, and the amulets; 21. the rings, and the nose-jewels;

2 Kings 9:30 *wicked Jezebel painted face...* taught God's servants to commit fornication (Rev 2:20-22). 30. And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her eyes, and attired her head, and looked out at the window.

Judges 8:24 *Ishmaelites (Abraham and Hagar... progenitors of Arabs – enemies of Israel) known for golden earrings.* 24. And Gideon said unto them, I would make a request of you, that ye would give me every man the ear-rings of his spoil. (For they had golden ear-rings, because they were Ishmaelites.)

Genesis 35:4 *Jacob took away strange gods (idols) and earrings.* 2. Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your garments: 3. and let us arise, and go up to Beth-el; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. 4. And they gave unto Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hand, and the rings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.

God wants to prevent us from getting proud.... Pride is what caused Lucifer to fall. God wants us to spend an eternity with Him... He is not trying to squelch our fun, but rather wants us to guard the avenues to the soul!

There are instances in the Bible where jewelry is spoken of favorably. For example, we will wear crowns in Heaven; when the prodigal son returned, the Father put a ring on his finger; In Esther, the king took off his ring and gave it to Mordecai. Conclusion? When God has reproduced His character in us and given us the victory over pride, HE – God, our Father, Savior and King, will bedeck us in with His beautiful created jewelry as He welcomes us His recreation into Heaven– this is **God's** prerogative.

Insightful reading: Samuele Bacchiocchi, 1999. Christian Dress & Adornment.

The Wedding Ring

Some have had a burden in regard to the wearing of a marriage ring, feeling that the wives of our ministers should conform to this custom. All this is unnecessary. Let the ministers' wives have the golden link which binds their souls to Jesus Christ, a pure and holy character, the true love and meekness and godliness that are the fruit borne upon the Christian tree, and their influence will be secure anywhere. The fact that a disregard of the custom occasions remark is no good reason for adopting it. Americans can make their position understood by plainly stating that the custom is not regarded as obligatory in our country. We need not wear the sign,

181

for we are not untrue to our marriage vow, and the wearing of the ring would be no evidence that we were true. I feel deeply over this leavening process which seems to be going on among us, in the conformity to custom and fashion. Not one penny should be spent for a circlet of gold to testify that we are married. In countries where the custom is imperative, we have no burden to condemn those who have their marriage ring; let them wear it if they can do so conscientiously; but let not our missionaries feel that the wearing of the ring will increase their influence one jot or tittle. If they are Christians, it will be manifest in their Christlikeness of character, in their words, in their works, in the home, in association with others; it will be evinced by their patience and long-suffering and kindness. They will manifest the spirit of the Master, they will possess His beauty of character, His loveliness of disposition, His sympathetic heart.

{TM 180.2}