

INWARD AND OUTWARD ADORNMENT OF A CHRISTIAN WOMAN

1 Peter 3:1- 6; 1Timothy 2:9; 1 Corinthians 7:31; Romans 1 2:1-2.

Dictionary defines **Adornment** as *something that adds attractiveness; ornament worn to enhance or distinguish the wearer*. A Christian Woman must be different from her ungodly counterparts both in inward and outward adornment. Her adornment should be devoid of all forms of outrageous dress and behavior that will make her negatively conspicuous to the eyes and minds of her beholders (Proverbs 7:10).

Worldly attire with broided hair, gold or costly apparels are indeed a reflection of inward disposition of pride, pomposity and pride deep seated in the heart. The type of beauty or splendor Jesus bestows upon His daughters is the inner beauty of the “Ornament of a meek and quiet spirit which is in the sight of God of great price” (1 Peters 3:4).

THE INWARD TRANSFORMATION OF A CHRISTIAN WOMAN: *Isaiab 55:6,7; Romans 3:23,24; 1John 1 :8; John 1:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17.*

The salvation experience is the foundation of a Christian woman's adornment. This experience enables her to live a radiant life because without heart transformation she cannot please the Lord (John 15:5).

Question 1: *What is the foundation of a Christian woman's adornment?*

Answer:

- Acknowledgement of sin - *Psalm 51:5; 66:18; Luke 18:1 3*
- Confession of sin and repentance - *1John 1:9; Pro. 28:13*
- Accepting Jesus as personal Lord and savior – *Acts 4:12; John 1:12*

Question 2: What other spiritual experience will beautify a Christian woman and how?

Answer:

- Sanctification or Heart purity (*1Peters 1:14-16; 1Thessalonians 5:23, 24; Hebrews 12:14*). Thirst, consecrate and pray with Faith (*Hebrews 13:12*).

THE INWARD ADORNMENT OF A CHRISTIAN WOMAN -
1Timothy 2:9,10; 1 Peter 3:3-5

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 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” (1 Peter 3:3,4).

The real beauty of a Christian woman is heart purity. The holiness that shines through a heaven-bound Christian woman makes her to dress carefully and modestly in conformity with the dictates of God's word.

Question 3: What are the things that characterize the inward adornment of a Christian woman?

Answer:

- A meek and quiet spirit (1 Peter 3:4)
- Victory over sin through Christ power (1John 3:9; 5:4)
- Daily manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-25)
- Full of good works (Titus 2:7,14; 3:1)
- Prayerfulness and watchfulness (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18)
- Constant study and meditation of God's word (Joshua 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:15)
- Absolute obedience to God's word (Psalm 119:16).

THE OUTWARD ADORNMENT OF A CHRISTIAN WOMAN -2
Kings .9:30, Isaiah·3:16-24; Jeremiah 4:30; 1Corinthians 7:31; 1Timothy 2:9,10; Deuteronomy 22:5; 1Peter 3:3-5; 1Corinthians 7:31; 1John 2:15-17; James 4:4; Romans 12:1,2.

The Scriptures is replete with the records of women who adorned themselves in ungodly ways and their ends were nothing to write home about. We learnt that Jezebel in 2 Kings 9:30 "**painted her face, and tired her head**" The situation in Israel in the days of prophet Isaiah was pathetic as the daughters of Zion, who should set a model for other women to emulate were "**haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet**" (Isaiah 3:16). The situation was not better in the time of prophet Jeremiah as the omen in Israel preoccupied themselves with worldly and ungodly adornment. Here is what the Scriptures has to say about their condition and the repercussion that would follow their pernicious way: "**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**" (Jeremiah 4:30).

Question 4: What are the consequences of worldly and ungodly adornment?

Answer:

- Rebuke and Rejection by God – Isaiah 3:17-26
- Abandonment and Loneliness – Jeremiah 4:30
- Loss of God's favor and presence - James 4:4; Hosea 4:17

On the other hand, we have godly women who "**adorn themselves in modest** apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or **pearls, or costly array**" (1 Timothy 2:9). Women like Sarah, Esther, Ruth, Deborah, Dorcas etc. are models for us to emulate in our dressings. Outward adornment is the physical comportment of a Christian woman. Our dressing must not constitute a stumbling block to others, rather, it should cover our nakedness and glorify the Lord.

Question 5: What should be the motives of our dressing as Christians?

Answer:

- To cover our nakedness (Genesis 3:21)
- To glorify Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31)

It is important to note that golden wrist watches, chains, earrings, all forms of attachment to the hair, necklaces, low-neck, tight-fitting clothes, low-back, transparent and any form of men's attire (Deuteronomy 22:5) are not appropriate for heaven-bound Christian women because they help to inflame pride and vanity.

However, we should endeavor to be neat and presentable and shun every form of worldliness and vainglory.

May the Lord help us *all* to keep the unchanging standard of God's word in this fast changing and moral decadent generation in Jesus name.