

### Modest Fashion: *What is Fashion?*

Fashion is something we deal with everyday. Our choice of clothing says a lot about us personally and even how we feel on any given day. Your IMAGE is a direct representation of who you are and is a part of your first impression on others.

Google defines fashion as a popular trend, especially in styles of dress and ornament or manners of behavior. The media (television, magazines, the internet, etc.) has a big impact on what people wear. For example, when I was coming up everyone wore backwards overalls, FUBU, or Baby Phat, topped off with a pair of Airforce Ones. In the world, you have musicians and other cultural influencers that dictate fashion trends. Fortunately being in the truth we have our biblical foremothers like Judith and Esther, along with the spiritual mothers of our congregation, and an abundance of sisters that not only have a keen sense of royal fashion but also provide us with a wide range of styles to draw from.

Some fashion styles are, Mature, Teen(trendy), Sporty, Comfortable, Glamour, Professional, Sophisticated & Elegant, Daytime & Nighttime. My style is Glamour/ Sophisticated & Elegant. My favorite style influence is from the 1940's, which they called the Glamour Daze. I'll take everyone's closet from the 40's, please & thank you! I like things that are elegant but with a little razzle dazzle. Growing up I began to love everything about the actresses Lena Horne & Phylicia Rashaad, they too are also influencers for me.

Fashion is all about being comfortable with yourself. Making sure your clothes fit properly is most important. Clothes that are too loose can make you look sloppy. You can even take your clothes to a tailor if needed. Then there is the opposite... we all know what tight clothes can make you look like!! Remember, our goal is to look like a Princess not a "gardening tool".

When it comes to shopping, I shop for what I like. If I like it and it looks right on me, I'm buying it. Some things I like but I may not buy because it either doesn't look right on my body type or I may feel like it's too young/trendy for me at my current age. A good tip to keep in mind is to make sure the clothing is of a decent quality.

That way you get your moneys worth and the clothing lasts. There are a lot of websites that offer good prices for good quality clothing.

Balancing out your ensemble with accessories can become easy with time and experience. For example, I prefer to keep my accessories mild and very few if my dress is already doing a lot, meaning it's full of beads or sequins. If my dress is simple and not heavily designed, then I'm going to dress it up with costume jewelry. Maybe even add a waist belt that stands out and wear a popping head wrap that day.

*1 Peter 3:3-4*

*Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of 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 Timothy 2:9*

*In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;*

*Romans 12:2*

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

Our FASHION is MODEST APPARAEL! How we dress is important but it is not more important than having a meek and quiet spirit. Don't be conformed to the fashion of this world, it is abominable. The fashion examples represented by the Cardi B's, Nikki's, or Megan The Stallion's are not the will of God.

Let's look at Luke 16:19-26. In life, Lazarus went through hard times and trials while the rich man lived lavishly. Then the tables were turned, Lazarus is now comforted while the rich man is in torment. The rich man was most likely known for his riches and even the way he dressed while Lazarus was remembered for his good works. Dressing well is important and a reflection of who you are, but don't let it be what you are. Clothes can easily become an idol.

Dress to represent ISRAEL, don't dress to impress people!

Shalom, Yocheved Israel