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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Tetzaveh – Holy Clothing

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Tetzaveh (Teht-zah-veh), which is Hebrew for “you command,” and it goes from Exodus 27:20 to Exodus 30:10.

This Torah portion contains God’s instructions for bringing olive oil for the Temple Menorah, making holy garments for the priests, the priestly ordination ceremony, and the altar of incense.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to present just a thought on what we wear as believers.

In some liberal religious circles, you’ll often hear that God doesn’t care about what we look like on the outside. God is concerned with the state of our heart. Therefore, it doesn’t matter what clothes we wear. Indeed, if you’re concerned about things like modesty, for instance, you’re just a legalist!

While it’s true that God is concerned with the state of our heart, that doesn’t mean that our outward appearance doesn’t matter at all. Quite the opposite! God cares a lot about what we wear. Believe it or not, there are several commandments in the Torah about clothes.

In fact, one way we glorify God is through what we wear. As it says in this week’s Torah Portion:

Exodus 28:2

And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.

These holy garments that the priests wore were not for their glory, but for God’s. The garments were intended to reflect God’s majesty and holiness to the people.

While this passage pertains specifically to the priests, there’s a general principle here. What we wear can bring glory to God. But that would entail that what we wear can also do the opposite! That is, what we wear can fail to reflect God’s glory and can actually profane His name.

Those who say that God doesn't care about the outward appearance of His people need to be able to explain why He commands us to wear and not wear certain things. In addition to the passage we read earlier regarding the priestly garments, consider these passages:

- Do not wear garments made of a mixture of wool and linen (Leviticus 19:19).
- Wear fringes—*tzitziyot*—on the corners of your garments (Numbers 15:37-41).
- Women, do not impersonate men in your clothing; men do not impersonate women in your clothing (Deuteronomy 22:5).
- Do not dress immodestly (1 Peter 3:3-5; 1 Timothy 2:9-10)

Considering cultural differences, there can be disagreement about what qualifies as men's and women's clothing, but the point is that God does not want us to impersonate the other gender in what we wear. There can even be some disagreement among believers about modest clothing. But the point again is that what we wear is important to God, therefore, it should be important to us. We ought to at least ask ourselves, "Will wearing this outfit bring glory to God or not?"

Some relevant teachings from 119 Ministries on this subject are:

- [Jewelry and Make-up](#)
- And our blog post [Modesty and Lust](#)

To be clear, wearing clothing that does not reflect God's glory is not the core issue. It's simply a symptom of a deeper problem. It's human nature to want to be accepted by the world. We don't like to be rejected and thought of as weirdos. Therefore, we give in and conform to the world's standards of dress or lack thereof.

But God has not called us to be trendy. He's called us to be holy. And if we truly desire to glorify God—if that is our inward heart's desire—it will be reflected in our outward appearance.

Matthew 23:25-26

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, **that the outside also may be clean.**

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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