

It's summertime -- you know that means? Many guys and ladies will show off their bodies and cause each other to stumble into sin. However, it's a problem that can be fixed. In America, it seems we've completely lost our understanding of modesty. Ladies fall for the lie that they aren't beautiful unless they stay fit so they can show off their bodies proudly and confidently. What Satan and society don't teach ladies is that showing off their outward prettiness only causes guys to stumble, which makes it extremely hard for a guy to be right with God and lead. Guys, for their part, typically listen to the lies that they also need to be physically fit so they can show off their bodies, which also leads the ladies to do the same -- it's a continual cycle. Guys, we must lead here. If you want ladies always to be modest, even at the beach and pool, don't be immodest yourself. Don't show off your body, and it will teach the ladies also not to show off theirs. Men, we're supposed to be the leaders here, and so let's do so.

I know I just hit 3 topics, so let's break it down in 3 pieces ~ sound good? Okay, let's go.

How does outward appearance/prettiness compare to inner beauty or character in God's Word?

"But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'" (1st Samuel 16:7)

"But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matthew 5:28)

>> This rebukes the lust of both guys and ladies <<

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night." (Psalm 1:1-2)

"Charm is deceitful and [outward] beauty is passing [vain, empty], but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised." (Proverbs 31:30)

"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1st Timothy 4:12)

Guys, here are some Scripture verses that will help me/you keep our heads and hearts single-focused in pleasing Christ:

**“Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form [*appearance*] of evil.”
(1st Thessalonians 5:21-22)**

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.” (Romans 12:9)

**“Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality [*sex outside of marriage*], but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body... Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband...”
(1st Corinthians 6:18-7:2)**

“Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.” (Titus 2:6-8)

“But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience... Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.” (Titus 2:1-2, 6-8)

“Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”(Romans 6:13)

**Ladies, here are some Scripture verses that will help you keep our heads and hearts
single-focused in pleasing Christ:**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Galatians 5:22-24)

**“Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel-- rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands...”
(1st Peter 3:3-5)**

“... in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.” (1st Timothy 2:9,10)

“... that they [*older women*] admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God may not be blasphemed. ” (Titus 2:4,5)

“... the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God may not be blasphemed.” (Titus 2:3-5)

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.” (1st Thessalonians 4:3-7)