

## **Modesty and Identity of Men's Shirts**

Both too much and too little can be made of clothing. We make too much of it when clothing is our passion, an expression of our vanity, and a means to call attention to ourselves and put our body on display. But we make too little of clothing when we overlook its symbolic meaning, when we disregard what is generally seen as appropriate in a given setting, and when we ignore the associations and identity by which clothing may mark us.

Earnest Christians want their clothing and personal appearance to speak of their relationship with God and their desire to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. They take measures to conduct and clothe themselves with modesty. They refrain from calling undue attention to their bodies or provoking impure thoughts in others. They want to be identified as children of the holy and righteous God, not with the heroes of popular culture, the celebrities of entertainment and fashion, or the craze of collegiate and professional sports.

One article of clothing where immodesty and wrong identity often merge is the pullover tee shirt. Short sleeves, tight fit and inappropriate messages and logos make many tee shirts inconsistent with the values we hold as a church, and are unacceptable clothing for work wear or other occasions.

A loose fitting pullover shirt with adequate sleeve length may be acceptable attire where such clothing is appropriate, such as work and relaxation. But we must take care not to compromise ourselves, betray our commitment to the brotherhood, or bring displeasure to our Father by apparel which is immodest or identifies us with the world. While there is no prescribed pattern for general men's wear, brethren must give careful thought that the clothing they select is consistent with Biblical principles and the standards required of the sisters.

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