

What Can I Wear?

“Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

Luke 12:27

How often we, especially women, worry about what they are going to wear on a certain day or to a particular function. Then we hear “clothes make the man.” They make him what? How important are the clothes we wear, really? We are told that Adam and Eve wore no clothes until they sinned. I was not ever sure why their sinning made a difference in wearing clothes!

“Biographies are but the clothes and buttons of the man. The biography of the man himself cannot be written.”

Mark Twain

Many times the clothes people are wearing are considered by others to be very significant. We put crowns on earthly kings and queens,

but they are no different than we are inside. We put on special garments for church and some times in government.

We wear special clothes for special occasions, and often think we must go buy something new for an event we are going to attend. But what really counts is what is under the clothes.

God tells us not to worry about our clothes. He doesn't tell us to go around without clothes, but are we going to have them in Heaven or will we be back as Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden because there will be no sin.

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.”

Colossians 3:12-15



A children's story called “The Emperor's New Clothes” by Hans Christian Anderson makes fun of this, but we don't stop to see what the true moral of the story is. It is just a story about an emperor who was so vain about his clothes that he believed what people told him. A couple weavers told the emperor and his followers that the

clothes are invisible to people who are too stupid for their jobs. No one can see the clothing, but no one wants to admit this fact because they do not want to be identified as foolish. But the story really tells all of us that we can put too much emphasis on clothes instead of the person. We can be so vain as to wear something that may look ridiculous, but it is in fashion and so we want to be like everyone else.

At the end of the story, a child too young to understand the absurdity of the whole scheme is the one to point out the truth that the emperor has no clothes on. All the adults who had been so tied up in trying to not be considered foolish that they went along with the whole concept. I am reminded of how often we ignore the honesty and intelligence of a child. Research tells us that Anderson wrote it to point out the hypocrisy and snobbery that he had experienced in childhood. This story published in 1837 is as applicable today as it was then. We are impressed often by what people are wearing rather than what is inside that person.

“Elegance and Style are not shown by putting on a new dress.”

Anonymous

"I'm a clown, which could be a public health role. I'm really interested in moving our society away from a society needing Xanax and Prozac, and that is really feeling depressed, to one that is celebrating, and so I find just

walking around in colorful clothes, people smile."

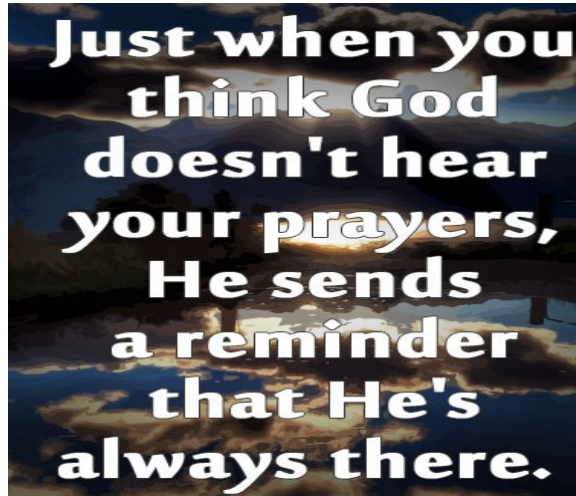
Patch Adams



A wonderful movie was viewed in 1998 about a doctor named Patch Adams who was determined to become a medical doctor because he enjoyed helping people. He included his belief in laughter, joy and creativity into his medical practice. He believed these could also help the healing process. What does this have to do with what I wear? Many people thought that Patch Adams was a little too far out there and so his mission to combine medicine and humor did not really work. People were upset with his clown outfit, but he didn't really care. He sought to help in a world that he thought was struggling.

One of my favorite songs "His eye is on the sparrow" was inspired by a Scripture verse *"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not*

therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." Matthew 10:29-31 If a sparrow cannot fall without His noticing that seems ridiculous, but is it ridiculous that He cares for you and will not let you fall? And besides that he feeds them every day.



*"Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing,
when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him, from care
He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know
He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I
know He watches me."*

From "His Eye is on the Sparrow
by Civilla Martin



Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to concentrate on what we are doing to please you rather than how we should please society. Sometimes, we lose sight of what is really important in life. Please forgive our sins and help us to follow You more closely. Amen

1. Should we wear special clothes on special occasions?
2. Does our dress show anything about our character?
3. Do you think God cares what we wear at certain times?

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"I'm fulfilled in what I do. I never thought that a lot of money or fine clothe—the finer things of life—would make you happy. My concept of happiness is to be filled in a spiritual sense."

Coretta Scott King