

A few years ago, Sommer was given a book by one of the godly women at Eastside. It is entitled: "SecretKeeper: The Delicate Power of Modesty." No, Sommer didn't need the book. But then again, she and I both did. We both read the book and saw quite clearly that our young women, and really all women, need to know about the POWER they possess over men, and how clothing factors in heavily.

And so, tonight, I'd like to share with you the 4 main points of this book, doing our very best to test each idea and measure it's validity with the Holy Scriptures from God.

I would say by way of introduction, that this book and lesson is for our **YOUNG LADIES**. But it is not JUST for our young ladies. Increasingly, in a beauty centric world, **women of all ages** are dressing in ways that make this lesson just as needful for them, or at least unaware of the impact they continue to have in the eyes of men.

This lesson is for **young men**, who are looking for godly young ladies to spend time and life with.
This lesson is for **fathers**, as you seek to help your wife and daughter understand the power of modesty.

Speaking of "Power of Modesty," isn't this a great title? You need to know this secret, that your choice of clothing and how you represent yourself has an immense influence on the people around you. Don't forget it or disregard it, but hold it close to your heart and let that be reflected in what you wear.

It is with good reason and great wisdom that God said, **(I Timothy 2:9-10)**

"I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly..."

Your choice of clothing matters to God.

I. The ALLURE of Your BODY

- a. "to entice by charm or attraction." God has built in women the power to allure men, to attract them beginning with the dominant impact of his eyes upon her.
 - i. Sometimes we call this her "sexuality" or even as broad as "beauty."
 - ii. But it is her power to attract a man by how she chooses to represent herself.
- b. The Bible indicates that men are quite visual and therefore attracted dominantly by sight
 - i. **Song of Solomon 4:1-4** – We'll stop there, but you get the picture!
 - ii. **II Samuel 11:2** – "he saw a woman bathing; ... very beautiful in appearance"
 - iii. **Matthew 5:28** – Men, in particular are warned about lust. Attraction is an issue.
- c. Modesty is her ability to control that power. It is her personal, controllable choices to:
 - i. Limit what he sees, where he investigates with his eyes, how stimulated he will become before he ever has to use his imagination!
 - ii. She cannot control his mind, but she can decide how far and fast to draw him in.
 1. *Gestalt Theory* – The power of the mind to take partial information and fill in the rest. In testing, if a person was given a small piece of information, their mind would make all the connections and build a complete picture.
 2. If her body parts are showing, or clothes are so tight as to reveal the form, then she has given him information he needs to fill in the mental image.
 - iii. Godly women will cover their bodies. They will save that allure, protect it, hide it, keep it their secret, until they reveal it to their husband and him alone.
 - iv. You are not responsible for his lust, but you are responsible for being irresponsible with your power to incite and promote it. Wield that power responsibly.

II. The PURPOSE of Your BODY

- a. God has made you beautiful, physically attractive. Maybe everyone things you are beautiful to the eye. Maybe only one person, a person perhaps you've not met yet. But God made ladies beautiful to eyes.
 - i. *The purpose of this beauty is not to fulfill self worth: your soul provides that.*
 - ii. *Your physical beauty is not to provide acceptance among your peers. Skin deep.*
- b. But listen, the purpose of that beauty and your body is to fulfill the desires of your Mate.

- c. **Genesis 2:18,22,24-25** – It must have been exhilarating to see this beautiful woman. And hey, she wasn't wearing clothes! But this woman was God's gift for one man: her husband.
 - i. "Well what if I am not married? Be a beautiful person and someone will love you, but reveal your body to no one until that right is unlocked in marriage.
- d. **Proverbs 5:18-19** – Song of Solomon uses greater description, but the point here is that her body has a purpose, to exhilarate ... THEM? No. Him, her mate, one person.
 - i. **V20** – As appalling as it would be to have a man lay his hands on the parts of my spouse that God has provided for me... his eyes have no business there either!
- e. **Proverbs 7:10-13** – The body can be used for the purpose of promoting sinful behavior. Before she touched him, she showed him her body. Godly women want no part of that.
- f. And while all his thoughts are not under her control, what he can do with his hands and eyes most certainly are.
 - i. *Rule: If your husband would not want another man touching a part of your body, by accident or intentionally or whatever, do not show it to another man.*
 - ii. *Do not wear something so low as to show part of it. Do not wear something so high as to reveal very close to it. Do not show what you do not want others to touch.*

III. The GOAL of your HEART

- a. How one dresses is the effect. The goals she has set in her heart are the cause. Once one has decided who they want to be and how they want to represent themselves, choices of clothing merely represent that.
- b. So, what is the GOAL of your Heart? **I Timothy 2:10** – Godliness. We all want to be right with God. From the inside out, we want to be a person who pleases God right?
 - i. **V9** – So, our clothing should reflect that goal.
 1. **"Proper clothing"** – literally, good behavior clothing!
 2. **"Modestly"** – "shamefacedness" – literally, bashfulness toward men, reverence toward God!
 3. **"discreetly"** – "sound mind; self control." No one makes this decision. Culture cannot dictate how you dress. You, in Christ, have that power!
 4. **"not with hair, pearls, garments"** – This is not negating these things, but it negating the importance of these things to show your beauty.
 - ii. **V10** – She will be known, like the virtuous woman of **Proverbs 31**, not by how she reveals her flesh, or uses her body to get what she wants, but with conservative discretion, downplaying her body to all men but her mate, she is known to all, men and women, for her deeds in Christ!
- c. Modesty is an issue of the heart, for that's where your choices originate. However, this does not mean clothing is irrelevant. This passage teaches the opposite. She says, "don't judge me by what I wear, judge me by who I am." God says, "how you dress tells the world who you are." Ladies, what are you telling the world about who you are?
 - i. And gentlemen, the way you use your eyes, the ladies you look at, the way you speak of modesty in your home, the conversations with your wife, the bible studies with your daughters, all of that tells the world who you are as well. Ladies need support!

Conclusion – Colossians 3:1-7 – Before you go to the Mall for their one day sale, before you buy that dress for your friend's wedding, or go get new clothes for worship, or the beach, please read this passage.

Understand the ALLURE of your body. Understand how God has blessed you with beauty for a purpose, limited only to exhilaration of your spouse. And understand that every outfit, every choice, every time, is announcing to family, friends, strangers and God exactly what is in your heart.

And it is the heart I address in this invitation. If your heart has lost its love for being holy. If clothing or words or choices are reflecting that something inside you is not where it ought to be, make that right, let God help you, God's people help you, and clothing will follow suit.