

Covering

- Covering is the first purpose of clothing and almost everyone knows it (Gen. 3:7, 21).
- Minimal coverage is insufficient and almost everyone knows that too (Gen. 3:10).
- God (on occasion) has specified what He wants covered (Ex. 28:42).
- On other occasions, God merely describes nakedness (Isa. 47:2-3; Ezek. 16:6-7).
- We even find indications of time and place for some exposure (Jn. 21:7; 13:4).

Communication

- Clothing also has a purpose to communicate (Ex. 39).
- It communicates status (Jas. 2:2-3).
- It communicates office/occupation (Prov. 7:10).
- It communicates honor (Matt. 22:11-13).
- It communicates order (1 Tim. 2:9).
- It communicates gender (Deut. 22:5).

Convention

- This is the most difficult to apply, but also the least important.
- Appropriateness involves evaluating the culture we live in (1 Tim. 2:9).
- But this is to the end that we communicate a particular message (1 Tim. 2:10).
- We want to balance standing out and fitting in (1 Cor. 9:20-23).