

Modesty

1 Timothy 2:9

“Likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire” (1 Tim 2:9 ESV).

modesty (n.): "freedom from exaggeration, self-control," from Latin *modestia* ("moderation, sense of honor, correctness of conduct")

αἰδώς (*aidōs*, “unpretentiousness,
modesty, respectful, a sense of shame”)

The Greek Word Translated “Modesty” in the New Testament

“Those women who had recently been arrayed for marriage abandoned the bridal chambers prepared for wedded union, and, neglecting proper modesty, in a disorderly rush flocked together in the city” (3 Macc. 1:19 NRSV).

The Use of Αἰδώς in the Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Philo, and Josephus

“And then they sewed the leaves of the sweet fig-tree and made clothes and put them on each other. They concealed the sexual parts, because they were ashamed” (Sibylline Oracle 1.47-49).

The Use of Αἰδώς in the Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Philo, and Josephus

“Then your father answered: ‘It is not because we think not to be found by you, Lord, that we hide, but I was afraid, because I am naked, and I was ashamed* before your might, (my) Master”
(*Apoc. Mos. 23:2*).

The Use of Αἰδώς in the Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Philo, and Josephus

* This is a verbal form of αἰδώς and means “to be ashamed.”

“And the expression, ‘they were not ashamed,’ we will examine hereafter: for there are three ideas brought forward in this passage. Shamelessness, modesty, and a state of indifference, in which one is neither shameless nor modest. ...

... Now shamelessness is the property of a worthless person, and modesty the characteristic of a virtuous one; but the state of being neither modest nor shameless, is a sign of a person who is void of comprehension" (*Leg. alleg.* 2.65).

“Upon this they perceived that they were become naked to one another; and being ashamed thus to appear abroad, they invented something to cover them ... and they covered themselves with fig leaves; and tying these before them, out of modesty” (A.J. 1.44).

The Use of Αἰδώς in the Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Philo, and Josephus

Clothing ought not draw attention—by too much or too little—to the person who wears it. But it must cover nakedness.

Gen 2:25; 3:7–10, 21; Exod 20:26;
28:42; Isa 47:1–3; Ezek 23:8, 10; Rev 3:18

Modest Christians (Men and Women) Wear Proper Clothing

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