

Elder Bobby Willis



John 7:24, **“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”**

Clothes make the man! This statement has been around for quite some time. It is similar to the saying ‘*You can’t judge a book by its cover!*’ Smart looking, expensive clothing may make a man look better on the outside, but often times it just covers up his flaws. Likewise, book covers are often designed to entice readers to BUY the book. When the Lord said we should not judge according to the appearance, He was reminding us that it is what a man is made of on the inside that really counts. Outward appearances can often be very deceiving. God knows what is in the heart of His children as well as the heart of the wicked. Not only does this lesson cover people, it can also relate to circumstances happening around us. We must be careful to not jump to conclusions on appearances only, but use correct, righteous judgment in discerning what we are facing.

The Scribes and Pharisees were forever attempting to find fault with our Lord. It is a sad day when people worry more about traditions than the truth about the Son of God. There are a growing number of people in this world who are attempting to deceive others by hiding behind something that appears harmless. Little by little; TV, Movies, the Internet, and other forms of Social Media, are making sin (those things evil and corrupt) appear to be harmless and natural. Be watchful of how things Holy and Godly are being portrayed, or made to appear as silly, old fashioned, out of date, out of touch, etc.

We have the right clothing to put on (**“the whole armour of God”** - Ephesians 6:11,13) to take care of every situation we face in life, however, many times we get caught up with how we look to others (outward appearance) that we forget who it is we are to please. Appearance is more than just the clothes on our back. Appearance is often vanity when we find ourselves wanting to ‘impress’ due to an inward pride we have not suppressed.

Paul said this in referring to how we are to have a godly appearance, **“For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is**

from heaven:...” (II Corinthians 5:2). It is far better to be clothed upon rather than just putting clothes on. David would not put the armor of Saul on his body because it had not been proven. The armour of Christ has been tried and proven for every child of God to be a perfect fit. No extra tailoring is needed, nothing needs to be added to or anything taken from God’s armour.

Our best situation is to **“be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble”** (I Peter 5:5). *Think About IT!*