

Intro:

WLC Q&A 138: “temperance, keeping of chaste company, modesty in apparel”.

Main Point of Text: Paul's preaching *convicted* but did not *save* Felix because of his keeping up unchaste appearances.

2 Cor. 11:2).

Sermon Point: *Keep up an holy appearance.*

Move 1: *Keep up an holy appearance by clothing yourself in maturity and respectability.*

LC: “modesty in apparel”: “Modest” in Greek: respectable, appropriate, honorable. Translated in 1 Tim. 3:2 for bishop as “of good behavior” [modestly]. Same in 1 Tim. 2:9-15. See too 1 Pet 3:1-6. Notice “likewise”; submission, silence.

- Clothing's purpose to cover. Gen. 3, Adam/Eve's leafy loincloths replaced by God's leather tunics.
- Priests wore tunics. So do you for Christ: Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2, 9-27. Ps. 45:8-17: queenly attire.]
- Romans 13:14

Move 2: *Keep up an holy appearance with righteous, respectable, and mature companionship.*

LC: “keeping of chaste company”: choose your friends carefully; and other influences:

- READ Prov. 2:16-22. Psalter begins w/ a contrast of who you walk with and their respective ends.
- ... *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.* (1 Cor. 15:33)
- Ps. 45:14 the Bride's companions are virgins.
- Gal 5:16; 5:25.
- *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.* (Pr. 13:20)

Move 3: *Keep an holy appearance by keeping a chaste composure that controls your life.*

LC “temperance”: self-control, mastery. Has to do with your master. Controlling yourself in a situation, not being controlled by it/others. Like Paul controlled himself re: uncontrolled royalty. Acts. 24:24-25:

- Felix wanted to hear about the novel religion, Christianity (vs. 24), “the faith in Christ.”
- Paul's answer? Vs. 25: “righteousness, temperance, judgment to come”. Paul knew his audience:
 - Drusilla: Known for being a bold, brazen woman. Now an adulteress. She was a part Jew, so probably her curiosity in Jews' concerns being satisfied by Felix.

- Felix: notoriously unrighteous, intemperate, w/ judgment already coming from Rome.
 - Had been slave in household known for sexual sin. Brought bad upbringing w/ him.
 - Such unjust ruler, own people complaining to Claudius Caesar to replace him w/ Festus; did.
 - Should convict or release Paul. Tries to extort, then defers to please Jews.(vss. 25-27).
 - Felix knew Paul was innocent (22-23); trying to keep up appearances with wife/Jews/Rome.
 - Vs. 25; Felix trembled, lit. moved w/ fear. Didn't want to lose what had. Unlike Paul (Acts 9:6), Jailer (Acts 16:29).
- Notice, Paul makes the Gospel about a lifestyle that stems from new life. He focused on application toward evil lives. Paul's own testimony was vs. 16. Comes from a good life.
 - So too in: 23:1 His message was twofold: Acts 20:21 Titus 2:1: faith/truth after godliness.
 - Righteousness, living righteously for being made righteous: Acts 10:35; Rom 6:13, 18-19.
 - Temperance, self-controlled living for the eternally living Master: Gal 5:23; 2 Pet. 1:5-6.
 - Judgment to Come, the motivation for holy religion: Acts 17:31a; 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 9:27.

Paul, like Jesus, never lets Christianity be only about sound doctrine. It is equally about proper practice: Titus 2:12-14; 1 Thess. 4:3-4, 7.

Conclusion:

Not endorsing a fake faith:

- 2 Tim. 3:5; 2 Cor. 5:12; John 7:24; 1 Sam. 16:7.
- But equally true: 1 Th. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:3.

Keep up an holy appearance.