

# CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

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THE REFLECTION OF  
THE SOUL

24

SERIES



In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on how holiness of outside is a reflection of the inside and is only complete when the spirit, soul, and body are sanctified.

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# City of the Living God

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*“And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people. Therefore Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty” (2 Cor. 6:16-18).*

As a new Christian that is born again into the Church, God begins the sanctification process at the infilling of the Holy Spirit and baptism in the name of Jesus. You begin your Christian life on a new clean slate. You are forgiven and clean in the sight of God. With this new beginning God begins the process of cleansing our whole being: spirit, soul, and body. We become His temple and He dwells in us. It is very important that we allow the Spirit of God to continue to lead us into a life of holiness. At the new birth, we become adopted into His family. As part of His family, he continues to help us protect the sanctity of that temple (our spirit, soul and body). He teaches us what is unclean, so we do not “dirty up” our temple.

# COMPLETE HOLINESS

We have already seen within the Scriptures that it teaches that in order to be made truly holy, the Spirit of God has to change our inward and our outward. Holiness of the inside and outside has always been taught within the Bible.

## Matthew 23:25-26

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, **first cleanse the inside** of the cup and dish, that the **outside of them may be clean also**” (NKJV).*

## 1 Thessalonians 5:23

*“Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify** (make holy) you **completely**; and in your **whole spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (NKJV).*

## 2 Corinthians 7:1

*“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the **flesh and spirit**, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (NKJV).*

# THE OUTSIDE IS A REFLECTION OF INSIDE

The Bible is very clear that our outward actions and behaviors are a reflection of the inward being. Several scriptures prove this to be true.

Simon the Sorcerer in the Book of Acts offered the Apostle Peter money to be able to have the gift of laying on hands. Peter was able to see what his inward heart was like through his outward actions. Obviously, our outward actions are a reflection of our inward heart.

### **Acts 8:20-23**

*“But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, **for your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity”**” (NKJV).*

Jesus says that the words that we speak are a reflection of our inward heart. Our speech does not just come spontaneously and without motivation or meaning. The words that come from our mouth can tell something about our person.

### **Matthew 12:34**

*“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (NKJV).*

That is why John the Baptist asked those that were going to repent of their sins for some outward evidence that showed proof of their intentions.

### **Matthew 3:7-8**

*“But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore **bear fruits worthy of repentance**” (NKJV).*

Jesus said that a person that has committed adultery in his heart is guilty of sin because the inward sin will lead to the outward action of adultery.

### **Matthew 5:27-28**

*“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*

# OUTWARD ADORNING

Not only are our conversation and actions important for holy living, but our dress and lifestyle. In this Christian walk, the Holy Spirit will give us convictions that we never had before. Whereas in the past you may have worn revealing or immodest clothes, God will show you a new and better way. The Apostle Paul tells Timothy:

## 1 Timothy 2:9

*“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in **modest apparel**, with shamefacedness (reverence) and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.”*

Not only did the Apostle Paul teach this, but the Apostle Peter gives the same teaching concerning our dress.

## 1 Peter 3:3-4

*“Whose adorning let it not be that **outward adorning** of plaiting the hair; and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”*

The two greatest apostles in the New Testament Church both speak in regards to adorning of women with a very similar list of items that include: the hair, jewelry, and apparel. This is not by coincidence that both of them reference this same list. The mere fact that the list is very similar shows that this was a list that was referenced to local congregations and ministers.

The lists include:

- a). Braided or plaited hair styles – This was more than just a simple braiding of the hair. This was very elaborate hair styles that took hours to weave in gold into their hair.

b) Wearing of gold, pearls – This is obviously referring to jewelry of any material—not just metal, but any other material such as pearls.

c) Modest apparel – This is referring to garments that are revealing the form of the body, or any nakedness of the body. The Greek word for this is *katastole*, which literally means a “dress letting down,” In other words, it refers to a long dress.

d) Costly Apparel – This is the only one that is relative since it has to do with the cost of the apparel. In other words, wearing clothes that are so expensive compared to the society in which one lives. The Apostle Paul is teaching women not to purchase expensive dresses to show their beauty. Beauty does not come from the outward dress; it comes from the inner self. Jesus said, “Show me your treasure, and I’ll show you where your heart is” (Matt. 6:21). So, for any person of any socio-economic class, they should not use excessive amounts of money to ornament their beauty.

In 1 Timothy, the Apostle Paul is giving guidelines to a young pastor named Timothy in regards to pastoring people. Obviously, these are not the apostle’s suggestions; they are foundational teachings that a pastor should put into action in the local church. Other very crucial topics that the apostle addresses right after addressing the women’s adornment are a) qualifications of a bishops, b) qualifications of deacons, c) warnings of false teachers, and d) the preservation of sound doctrine. None of these topics were mere suggestions; they were essential teachings. Timothy was not only to put these teachings into practice in the local church, but whenever he installed a bishop or deacon in any other church, this was the guideline.

In the Epistle from Peter, he is addressing the church. No doubt this was a problem in the early church that had to be addressed and so this became a list that was given to the churches.

Both scriptural passages teach that the beauty should come from the inward rather than the outward ornamentation. It is more than just a list

of things to avoid; it is the teaching that women should find their beauty in the inner self where true beauty is derived (1 Pet. 4:4) and will show by their outward godly behavior (1 Tim. 2:10). So, the list is a set of guidelines to ensure that Christian women would avoid the use of jewelry, immodest dresses, and elaborate hair styles.

### **Early Circulation of the Epistles**

The early church shared copies of the letters with all of the churches (Col. 4:7-16, Herm. Vis. 2.4). They would make copies and send them to all of the churches to read. So, Peter's list was sent out to the churches. He begins his epistle with "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia" (1:1). Also, this was such an important teaching that the Apostle Paul made sure that his disciple Timothy was instructed to teach this to the churches that he pastored. So, in Peter this was to be instructed to all of the churches and in the Apostle Paul, it was to be taught to all developing pastors to ensure it was taught to the local churches.

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