

# Modesty and Simplicity versus Affluence

In the 1959 General Conference, a resolution was drafted that states that we must teach and practice modesty, simplicity, and economy in all that we possess and undertake. However, compared to a few decades ago, our living standards are higher, and our homes and vehicles are much more comfortable as a result of affluence.

## Questions for Discussion

1. Should we pursue all of the opportunities that present themselves to us in our occupations?
2. What is the main danger in affluence?
3. How is moderation kept if better quality items can be afforded?
4. How do we know if a competitive spirit controls us?
5. Do we honestly esteem the man who is struggling financially as much as the one who has wealth?
6. Can generosity be a way to justify having more assets?
7. Is living simply and modestly in our affluent times simply a matter of balance?
8. What is godly temperance or modesty in hobbies, special interests, recreation, or decorating?
9. How much virtue is there in making sure our homes and yards are plain?
10. Does a homemaker who has a natural touch for making things come together and look nice need to throttle back her instincts to make it painfully plain?
11. What is simplicity and modesty in our businesses?
12. Can our equipment be the best or most expensive in comparison to others in our community or in similar occupations?

## Scriptures

Proverbs 21:2, 4 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

4 An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.

Isaiah 42:1-2 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.

1 Timothy 6:8-10 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 Peter 5:5 Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

On the other hand:

Ecclesiastes 5:18–20 Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion.

19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.

20 For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart.

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