**MINISTERIAL SPOUSES’ CURRICULUM GUIDE: LECTURES**

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**Lesson 16**

**The Pastor’s Wife and Her Dress: Fashion Facts**

*Note: The following material addresses the specific challenges of pastoral wives. If you happen to be the husband of a female pastor, feel free to look this section over and glean any wisdom that applies to your situation.*

**Slide 2**

“The wife of a minister of the gospel can be either a most successful helper, and a great blessing to her husband, or a hindrance to him in his work . . . Their dress should be an example.” White, *The Adventist Home, 355.*

Below is a fact sheet to help our ladies in their dress:

**Slide 3 Dressing Dilemmas**

Whenever we have to go out, there are certain questions on our minds:

* What to Wear
* What not to wear
* Where to wear it
* What you hope to achieve

**Slide 4 The Importance of Dress**

“People judge us by our appearance. Our appearance can affect our performance. We have only one chance to make a good first impression. By our dress, we represent Christ.

**Slide 5** “A person’s character is judged by his style of dress. A refined taste, a cultivated mind, will be revealed in the choice of simple, appropriate attire.” *Education*, 248

**Slide 6 The Pastor’s Dress**. “A minister who is negligent in his apparel often wounds those of good taste and refined sensibilities. . . The loss of some souls at last will be traced to the untidiness of the minister.” 2T 613

It is better to have a few good suits than a lot of cheap outfits.

Notice how the priests were instructed (in the OT) to dress. Exodus 28: 2. “And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron, thy brother, for glory and for beauty.” “Make sacred garments for your brother, Aaron to give him dignity and honor.’” NIV

**Slide 7 Dress: The occasion and the people.**

“Our clothing should be plain and simple so that when we visit the poor they will not be embarrassed by the contrast between our appearance and their own.” *GW*, 189

**Slide 8 Critical Details:** Consider these points:

* Place
* Time
* Occasion
* The other people at the event

**Slide 9 Body shapes.**

Straight?

Pear?

Spoon?

Hourglass?

Inverted triangle?

Oval?

Diamond?

Find out your body shape and choose clothes that suit your shape.

**Slide 10 Straight body shape**. Proportionally dress the top and bottom of your body while enhancing your waist**. Pear body type:** The hips are larger than the bust, and the waist gradually slopes out to the hips.

**Slide 11 Spoon body type**. The hips are larger than the bust and the hips have a “shelf” appearance. **The Hourglass shape**. This is the shape women would tend to die for. The bust and hips are basically the same size and your waist is well defined

**Slides 12 & 13. Flattering Fabrics.** Heavy, coarse material, satin, velvet, and shiny material make us look fat. Sheers, ruffles, frills add size to our bodies. Clothes that cling to our bodies show our r**eal** size. Too large or too slim.

**Slide 14.** Consider the following areas when choosing clothes; age, your job, your spouse’s job**.**

**Slides 15 & 16 Color.** Color influences how we feel and how others feel**.** It sets the mood**.**

**Slide 17 Accessories.** Anything that is more than our basic outfit – suit andblouse, or dress.

**Slide 18 - 20 Activity**: If you had only $800 to upgrade your closet, what kind of clothes would you buy for your job? For church?

**Slide 21** “Sisters, when about their work, should not put on clothing which would make them look like images to frighten the crows from the corn.” *Adventist Home,* p. 252, 253

**Slides 22 & 23 The Modesty Test**

Too low?

Too high?

Too clingy?

Too defined?

**Slide 24 Underwear**

That is just what it is. Not to be seen. Watch those hipster trousers.

Choose well fitting, seamless bras.

Check your bra size from time to time

**Slides 25 & 26 Tips for Fashion Sense**

* Take a short sewing class.
* Browse through reputable fashion magazines.
* Plan your wardrobe carefully.
* Know your personality tastes.
* Choose age- appropriate styles.
* Choose bargains with care.
* Spend carefully.
* Do not be a slave to fashion.
* True beauty comes from within.

**Slide 27 CONCLUSION**

The ultimate dress is Christ’s robe of righteousness. The beauty of Jesus in our hearts and lives will be the best adornment for our dress.

“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel.” 1 Peter 3: 3