

September 10, 2024

As the temperature drops (a little) and people think about donning more clothing, some headlines are following a more revealing trend.

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, Newsweek carried, “Gen Z Comes Under Fire for 'Inappropriate' Office Wear—Experts Weigh In.” According to the experts cited, workers from this youngest of demographics are basing their wardrobe decisions on advice from online influencers who have never worked in an office. Taking exception with one influencer’s post an expert opined, “Open-back tops should not be touching your admin office. Wearing a blazer with nothing underneath can get you fired.”

The September 1 edition of the Fresno Bee featured, “Clovis Unified Dress Code Prohibits Lululemon Shorts. Why Parents and Students Are Upset.” The school’s code does not specifically ban any particular brand of shorts but states, “Shorts need to have an inseam of at least five inches.” Lululemon shorts have “a three- or four-inch inseam and cover the leg about mid to high thigh.” Female students in these shorts were told to change into different clothes if they brought them. If the student carried no spare item, they were sent to a disciplinary area until their parents brought new clothes.

The Guardian on September 5<sup>th</sup> published “‘I Couldn’t Say No’: Anger Grows Over Topless Medical Exams in Japan Schools.” Japanese schools conduct annual health examinations of their male and female students aged 5 to 18. It is a common practice to have all students strip to the waist, though each district is allowed to determine whether students remove any clothing for these exams. One 13-year-old girl from a district with the topless requirement said, “My chest was completely exposed and I felt embarrassed.” Over 95 percent of students surveyed want to end this practice, but resistance comes from the Japan Medical Association which claims the procedure insures superior diagnostic results.

The Bible contains several accounts of dress code violations. Starting with Adam and Eve discovering their nakedness in Genesis 3:7 and continuing to David’s wife being ashamed that her husband was dancing uncovered in the streets of Jerusalem (2 Sam 6:20), there are many fashion felonies in Scripture. The most deliberate case of wardrobe violation was done to King David’s envoys to Lebanon. The Lebanese government believed David’s envoys were spies (2Sam 10:3). To send a message to King David that Lebanon did not appreciate Israelite espionage, “King Hanun seized David’s envoys, shaved off half of each man’s beard, cut off their garments at the buttocks, and sent them away” (2 Sam 10:4). To spare them embarrassment back in Jerusalem, King David sent these envoys new clothes and instructed them to stay in Jericho until their beards grew back (2 Sam 10:5).

The New Testament also is concerned with personal modesty in apparel. The church in Corinth was reminded, “The parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special

modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment” (1Co 12:23-24). A copy of this letter needs to be posted on the internet, placed in student handbooks, and in particular, sent to the Japan Medical Association.