

# WHAT NORTHSIDE TEACHES STUDENTS ABOUT CLOTHES AND HAIR

## We teach them four basic Bible truths about clothing and hair:

1. The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (*I Corinthians. 6:19*). God=s Word has much to say about its use and abuse (overeating, drunkenness, immorality, self-control, exercise, etc.).
2. The Biblical standards for clothing and hair are modesty, appropriateness, and gender identification. *I Peter 3:3; Deuteronomy 22:5*
3. Clothing and hair should focus attention on the face, not on the hair itself and certainly not on the body. Since we all are easily tempted by sight to wrong thoughts (*Matthew 5:28*), we must think about the reaction our clothing may produce in those who see us, not simply about whether a particular garment is becoming or not. *Romans 14:13*
4. The Bible teaches clearly that short hair is a shame to a woman, while long hair is a shame to a man and a glory to a woman. *I Corinthians 11:1 ff.*

## We teach them six practical applications of these truths:

1. For men, we have a dress code which develops according to their grade level. We teach secondary students that school is their job and that they need to dress accordingly. There should be a visible difference between one who dresses to please the Lord and one who dresses to fit in with the world and its latest fads. *I John 2:15,16*
2. We have a hair code which requires a neat, traditional style. We do not claim that Aoff the ears, off the eyebrows, off the collar≅ is the Biblical equivalent of Ashort,≅ but this standard does meet the criteria of being modest, appropriate, and typically masculine. Administratively, it is a measurable standard which is enforceable.
3. For ladies, we have a dress code that meets a conservative, Christian standard of modesty. There is some Scriptural support (*Isaiah 47:2*) that knee-length is the proper standard for hem length since this covers the thigh. It is also measurable and therefore enforceable.
4. We seldom have a problem with ladies= hair styles, but such radical ideas as shaving all or parts of the scalp or coloring in unusual ways obviously focus attention in the wrong place and violate the principle of gender-differentiating Along≅ hair.
5. For all students, we have four levels of dress expectation listed in the Student Handbook: Service, School, Casual, and Activity. The dress level for school and church youth activities is announced along with other information for the event, which insures modesty and appropriateness. Our sports uniforms for both men and women meet these requirements.
6. There is room for difference of opinion among sincere brothers and sisters in Christ. However, when a school or a church has a well-known position on controversial issues such as clothing, hair, music, or entertainment, it is unethical to criticize that position or to rally support to force a change. The Christian alternatives are either to submit cheerfully to the authority of the organization in which one participates or to find a more compatible one.