

Deuteronomy 22:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Analysis

The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God. God establishes distinction between male and female in dress and appearance. This maintains the creation order where God made humanity male and female with distinct identities.

The word abomination (to'evah) indicates ritual repugnance and covenant violation. Cross-dressing was associated with pagan fertility rites and represented rejection of God's created order. Israel must maintain distinctions God established in creation.

This law affirms that biological sex matters to God and should be visibly honored in daily life. Gender is not mere social construct but divine creation that humans must respect, not blur or deny.

Reformed theology affirms God's creation of humanity as male and female, with these distinctions being good, purposeful, and enduring. Contemporary rejection of sexual differentiation contradicts creation order and dishonors the Creator.

Historical Context

Ancient pagan religions included cross-dressing in cultic practices, often associated with worship of deities representing gender fluidity or as part of fertility rituals. God's law separated Israel from such practices.

Maintaining visible sexual distinction reinforced the complementary nature of male and female in marriage and society.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does this law teach about God's creation of distinct male and female identities?
2. How does cross-dressing relate to rejection of created order?
3. Why is visible honoring of biological sex important in daily life?
4. What does calling this practice 'abomination' reveal about its seriousness?
5. How should biblical affirmation of sexual distinction inform Christian response to contemporary gender ideology?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	יְהִי הַ	כַּלִּי	בֶּן	בֶּן	עַל
H3808	H1961	shall not wear that which pertaineth	neither shall a man	neither shall a man	H5921
		H3627		H1397	
הַ	אֲשֶׁר	בֶּן	שְׁמִלָּת	אֲשֶׁר	הַ
The woman	H3808	put	neither shall a man	garment	The woman
H802	H3847		H1397	H8071	H3588
				H802	
תְּוֻעָבָה	תְּוֻעָבָה	יְהִי הַ	כָּל	עַל	אֲלֹהָהֶם
are abomination	unto the LORD	thy God	H3605	for all that do	so
H8441	H3068	H430		H6213	H428

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 18:12 (References God): For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

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