

## Stripped Down To Your Bare

*Costumes.* You see a lot of them nowadays. If you go to the store, you will find many characters wearing costumes. If you go online, you will see many people wearing costumes. But, these are not your everyday costumes that you purchase for an event. No, the costumes in reference are the faces that many put on every day before they start their day.

Look at the women of today. As beautiful as many of them are, they are still not happy with being who they are because they haven't sat still long enough to get to know themselves better. Instead, they depend on people for happiness. Whether it is having a few friends in their circle, or having a man by their side; many women don't know who they really are. If you don't know who you are, you can't love who you are. Therefore, many of the ladies today are wearing costumes.

Vanity products are leaving the shelves faster than Bibles as the women of today learn to beautify the outside, hoping to cover up the emptiness on the inside. Tattoos are the in-thing, as many women try to present themselves as this immortal and sensual character that has some type of super powers in the bedroom. Today, the fad is to beautify the external person, all the while the internal person slowly starves from lack of knowledge.

What character are you portraying? Whose hairstyle are you wearing on your head? Whose style of dress are you fashioning? Whose way of speaking are you patterning after? Somehow, you may have gotten lost in man's idea of detachable beauty. You have to learn to look at you in the mirror and see the beauty in the person looking back at you. Otherwise, you will let others tell you how beautiful they think you are, and how beautiful you are not.

Look around and you will find women portraying themselves as seductive baby dolls and feminine action figures hoping to be seen as every man's dream. Mohawks, lace gloves, and leather pants grace the woman as she tries to find herself underneath man's perception of beauty. Instead, she loses more of herself in all the lies and fads.

Ask a woman about a hair product and she can probably give you an hour-long speech as to what type of hair is better suited for you, but ask that same woman about what God said, and you'd probably get a blank stare. The reason for this is that we, as women are under attack. The enemy knows that anything that is not growing is dying. Just as the earth turns continually, we are our own earths that must keep moving. In order for us to sustain life, we have to be filled with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Otherwise, we'd grow out of our beauty eventually, and have nothing else to offer except our bodies until they've been worn down.

What would happen right now if you were stripped down to your bare self? Not just from all of your

vanity products, but from your necessities such as your toothbrush, your soap, and your food. What would you do? What would you have to sustain your family today if you didn't have those bare necessities? Would your family starve to death if all of you were taken out into the middle of the desert and left? Or is there some wisdom in you that would help your family to survive? What if your husband could not provide for you anymore, and you didn't have a way of providing for your family? What would you do? Would you depend upon a system that is designed to keep the poor in poverty? Or could you, with what you know today, build a foundation for your children to stand on?

Take away all of your hair products, makeup, fashionable attire, and money and then ask yourself, "What do I have left?" Many would boast on having children, but what good is it if you can't provide for them?

As women, we often adorn the outer shell, and forget about the most important part of us; our hearts. The heart is the window to the spirit of a person, but it also has walls that the enemy tries to scale. When the heart is surrounded by wisdom, filled with knowledge, and guarded by understanding; the enemy can't come anywhere near it. But, when the heart is void of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding; it becomes a prison that holds its owner captive. The heart of a person, as referenced in the Bible, is the mind of a person, and the mind is a creature of repetition. It doesn't feel good to have someone attempt to free your mind when you've gotten comfortable in your Egypt. Therefore, many of our sisters today find solace in the things of the world, and they have become exiled from wisdom. Many women today seek refuge in foolishness because this dark place is where they've grown comfortable. They've grown accustomed to their lost friends who accompany them in misery, and they unify in their searches for happiness outside of God, but there is no such place. This is where drugs, alcohol, and clubs come into the picture. In the highs of intoxication, and the adrenaline fueled lies, there is a sense of happiness and many women strive to relive this high as much as they can. Satan says a little more makeup, a different hairstyle, and a shorter skirt should do it. Satan says fornication with a new guy should fix the shattered glass in your heart's window that the last guy broke when he tried to break away from you. Satan says one more drink, and one more club visit should bring you where you want to be. But, Satan is a liar.

Clothe your heart with wisdom, and wear knowledge as your perfume. Let understanding grace your head, and let the Word court you. It is then that you will become what almost every woman is sinning to become; only you'll get the real blessing with no sorrows added to it. You'll get that wonderful blessed man of God who will call you wife, and you will call him husband. You'll get something better than a job; you'll get to work in your talents and make money doing what you love to do. You'll find yourself surrounded by wise counsel, and women who add to you and not just take away from you. Your health will have to line up with the Word of God, and your enemies will have to take their seat and watch God honor you. And the best of it is, you will know that you are pleasing your Father.

It's okay to want to look great, but never put more “on” you than you allow God to put “in” you.  
Search for wisdom, for she is your crown, and she will make you sparkle on the head of your king.