Intro:
- illus.: psychologist Ruth W. Berenda - peer pressure to conform -- constant pressure to conform to pop culture standards of dress, immodest dress
  - A few years ago psychologist Ruth W. Berenda and her associates carried out an interesting experiment with teenagers designed to show how a person handled group pressure.
  - The plan was simple. They brought groups of ten adolescents into a room for a test.
    - Subsequently, each group of ten was instructed to raise their hands when the teacher pointed to the longest line on three separate charts.
    - What one person in the group didn’t know was that nine of the others in the room had been instructed ahead of time to vote for the second-longest line.
  - The experiment began with nine teen-agers voting for the wrong line.
    - The victim would typically glance around, frown in confusion, and slip his hand up with the group.
    - The instructions were repeated and the next card was raised. Time after time, the self-conscious victim would sit there saying a short line is longer than a long line, simply because he lacked the courage to challenge the group.
  - This remarkable conformity occurred in about 75% of the cases, and was true of small children and high-school students as well. (revised from: C. Swindoll, Living Above the Level of Mediocrity, p. 225)
  - the pressure to conform is as strong with the wearing of immodest clothing, as anything else with teenager - perhaps one of the strongest areas of pressure to many

- this series: Problems Teenagers Face

- this lesson: modesty

Modest clothing styles constantly changing -- God doesn’t dictate exact styles
- pics.: clothing style changes since late 19th century till today (21st century)
  - what’s modest today, wasn’t modest in the 19th century, 1st century
    - if one of the ladies here wore a typical 21st century modest dress back in the 1st century, she would have been considered immoral
  - illus.: first room used by U.S. Supreme Court, balcony had modesty curtain, about 6" off floor
  - illus.: mom and other relatives were afraid to wear pants to go and see my dad’s grandfather
    - parents and grandparents can’t necessarily expect kids today to wear what they wore, just like previous generations couldn’t do it to them when they were teens

6 - pics: different styles you find today (21st century)
  - comment each, different cultural styles, Lindsey’s expectant baby, everyone who didn’t make it on the slide show can thank me later -- different styles of clothing, and standards of modesty, even within the world today

- How do we know what’s modest and immodest, if cultural standards continually change?
  - Bible, all truth, do all in the name of the Lord
Questions to ask – school, work, out with friends, beach – self evaluation, ask when shopping

- When people look you, is God glorified?
  - 1 Cor. 6:19-20 bought with price. glorify God in body – not glorify Satan
  - Do people look at you and assume you’re a Christian?
  - Phil. 1:20b exalt Christ in your body – not Satan
  - Do people look at you and say, “If Jesus were here, he’d be hanging with him!”
  - illus.: Super Bowl 38, wardrobe malfunction, Justin Timerlake accidentally exposed Janet Jackson’s breast, CBS fined $550k
    - beginning of the show, girls dressed in sexy lingerie, no one glorified God
    - anyone who watched it didn’t glorify God – we turned it off immediately

- When people look at you, do they think you’re a godly person?
  - 1 Tim. 2:9-10 adorn, modestly, discreetly, godliness
    - illus.: When you walk by Abercrombie and see pictures of half-naked models, do you assume they’re Christians or unbelievers? - If you dress like them, what do you look like?
    - Christians don’t dress like the wild people of the world – rather they profess godliness
    - illus.: read, writings, early Christians, woman thrown to wild animals, ravaged, violently tossed into the air, made sure she wasn’t exposed and indecent while hurling through the air – modesty extremely important

- When people look at you, do they think you’re a respectable person? – do you look like a respectable person
  - Rom. 12:17 respect what is right in the sight of all men
  - illus.: some school, and whole cities, are banning boys from wearing their pants too low, some say their imitating criminals or thugs by wearing clothes that way
    - not respectable, Christians not wear pants that way

- When people look at you, do they think wholesome thoughts or evil thoughts?
  - Phil. 4:8 honorable, pure, right, lovely, good repute, excellence, praise, dwell on these things
  - Christians dress in such a way to foster good thoughts, not evil thoughts
  - illus.: Brittany Spears has been in the news lately for wearing short skirts and flashing cameramen, so they can take pictures of her – does that make people have wholesome thoughts or evil thoughts
    - cf. Christian woman through to wild animals, violently tossed in the air
  - What we wear, affects other people. We have to be careful to always encourage good thoughts in others.

- Do you dress in a way that’s questionable?
  - Rom. 14:23b dress in such a way there’s no doubt you’re doing the right thing
    - Christians dress in such a way there’s no doubt their godly, righteous, holy – a Christian
  - 1 Th. 5:21-22 careful, hold fast to good, abstain from every form of evil
    - Christians don’t even get close to dressing inappropriately
Tips to overcoming the temptation to dress immodestly
- be diligent to dress modestly, don’t mindlessly follow the crowd
  - 2 Tim. 2:15 be diligent to present yourself approved to God, workman, not need to be ashamed
  - 2 Pet. 1:10 “Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you. . . .”
  - work hard to find stylish clothes that are modest – sometimes impossible, usually possible

- learn from other Christians, ask questions, how they find stylish clothes that are modest
  - Rom. 15:14 you are “filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another”
  - sometimes older folks are good at criticizing young people for the clothes they wear, but don’t help find solutions
    - older folks need to be part of the solution, not part of the problem
    - can be hard to find stylish clothes that are modest

- grow spiritually through knowledge of God’s word - modesty
  - Rom. 1:16 the gospel is the power of God unto salvation – modesty
  - 1 Th. 2:13 God’s word performs it’s work in those who believe – modesty
  - Col. 1:9-11
    - filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding
    - walking in a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work
    - strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might
    - attaining of all steadfastness and patience
    - strengthened by God to live modestly in an immodest world – gospel, word

- be devoted to prayer - modesty
  - Rom. 12:9-12
    - Abhor what is evil; clinging to what is good - modesty
    - not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit - modesty
    - persevering in tribulation - modesty in an immodest world
    - devoted to prayer - modesty
    - pray about modesty, the temptations and trials of living in an immodest world

- stay focused on spiritual things, not worldly things - modesty
  - Col. 3:1-5
    - you’ve been raised up with Christ - baptized, became Christian
    - keep seeking the things above, where Christ is - modesty
    - set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth - modesty
    - you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God - modesty
    - consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality -immodesty

- choose friends who are on the more modest spectrum of styles - modesty
  - 1 Cor. 15:33 don’t hang out with evil companions, choose friends who are positive influences (last lesson)
  - may not be any Christians at your school or in your classes, but may be some people who are more modest than others, hang out more with them
  - don’t fill your mind with immodest thoughts and desires with the TV and movies you watch
Summary / Inv.

- problem:
  - it’s hard to live modestly in an immodest world – peer pressure
  - clothing styles constantly change, so have to continually work to be stylish and yet modest

- test yourself: make sure you dress in a way that
  - glorifies God
  - professes godliness
  - is respectable
  - encourages wholesome thoughts and not evil thoughts
  - isn’t questionable

- solution: draw closer to God every day, be strengthened by Him through His word, and cling to positive influences

- inv.: solution for your life if you’re in sin, Jesus