

## **I WEAR RED LIPSTICK; IS THAT BAD?**

People connect with stereotypes. Many people think that wearing red lipstick means that you are sinning. What should be understood is that you can dress up with the latest clothing of professional status or be a homeless person, yet how you dress does not determine how your thoughts carry you and can shape your opinion of another.

Looks can be deceiving and a plan that could take you from starting a relationship or getting a good-paying job. You have to look as if you already have that position and status. You can see that a person's culture and home life will influence a person to turn and say that wearing red lipstick means you are in slavery to sexual acts that are displeasing. Who has dealt with cultural differences? Who can say they could walk down the street and see the difference in how the people live?

I visited a local church, and in this church gathering, the women members are not allowed to wear pants, for to their church culture, any woman doing so would act contrary to their church beliefs. It is permitted for guests to do this, yet being a member would mean taking part in their thinking and moving in this way based on their human application of Scripture. So, to them, the way you look means that you are in a holy way with Scripture. I have visited that church more than once, and I have worn pants for each visit.

Going without makeup or wearing specific attire doesn't mean a person is holy. Wearing lipstick or any other makeup in moderation is not an overwhelming distraction, nor should a person be looked poorly upon because of the color of their lips.

What is the person's real motive for moving in this way to use facial enhancements? Red lips are beautiful; others will notice that shade. What are my reasons for wearing red lipstick? It is only to make a statement, yield, and do as Yahweh would state.

With the Great Way King Jesus, He truly wants us to worship Him in spirit and in truth. And this means coming before Him with clean hands and a pure heart. Yes, respect the way your church is seeing, yet move into a power way by seeing that what you put in the body and what you wear on the outside will not save you from eternal damnation.

But be careful. What does Scripture say concerning causing another to stumble?

(1) Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. (2) For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. (3) Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. (4) Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the Lord's help, they will stand and receive His approval. (5) In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. (6) Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor Him. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the Lord, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the Lord and give thanks to God. (7) For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. (8) If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. (9) Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead. (10) So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. (11) For the Scriptures say, "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bend to Me, and every tongue will declare allegiance to God.'"

(12) Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. (13) So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall. (14) I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. (15) And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died. (16) Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good. (17) For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (18) If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. (19) So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. (20) Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. (21) It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble. (22) You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. (23) But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

—Romans 14:1-23 NLT

Let's take a look at verse twenty-one. Even though this chapter mainly refers to eating and drinking, the outline gives a closer look at why we should also consider our brother or sister in the faith. Be consistent in your wardrobe, behavior, and tolerance for what your conscience gives. If you are under a dress code at your church, there is no breaking away from respecting the gathering.

If you are out in public, don't behave contrary to your character and beliefs to fit in with the culture. The crowd tends to bend a person into following, and that person loses more than their choice of dress or hairstyle.

How your spirit moves in unity with the nature of Yahweh is the most crucial part of your walk on this earth, but do not ignore how your actions can cause others to fall away from the faith. And if wearing red lipstick at your church gathering causes others to stumble regarding their church culture, consider whether there is a unity break with how you submit to that gathering. The goal is to live a life of "...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17, NASB). In Yahweh's way of living is where true fulfillment takes over; no better plan than that.