

## ISLAMIC TEACHINGS ON DRESS

1. In Islam, there is no specified fashion of dressing but various rules and regulations have been prescribed to determine the mode of dressing for the Muslims.
2. It puts much stress on the dress for both male and female Muslims. However, much stress has been set for the female group due their attractive nature.
3. Allah says in **Q (7:26)**;  
*“O children of Adam! We have bestowed up on you raiment to cover your shame and as adornment and the raiment of the righteous is the best...”*  
He also says in **Q (7:31)**;                    *“O children of Adam! Wear your beautiful apparel at every place of prayer, eat and drink but do not be wasteful, because Allah does not the wasters.”*
4. From the above verse, ‘beautiful apparel’ does not only mean clothes but also toilet manners, cleanliness, attention to hair and other small personal details which no self-respecting man and woman can neglect.
5. Thus, Muslims must be well dressed at every occasion of worship. However, one should not be extravagant in any aspect like dressing, eating, drinking, and clothing e.t.c because Allah does not love wasters.
6. In Islam, there are three categories of dressing i.e compulsory dressing, recommended dressing and forbidden dressing.
7. Compulsory dressing is the mode of dressing which covers the nakedness of the body. The Prophet PBUH said that the nakedness of man lies between the navel and the knees while that of the woman is the whole body except the face and the hands.
8. Recommended dressing is that form of dressing that is somehow beautiful and clear. Here, a Muslim dresses according to his/her economic means so as to be grateful to Allah but putting into consideration that He does not love wasters.
9. Forbidden dressing is that form of dress which is not allowed in Islam. For example, a woman wearing a man’s dress or putting on a dress on the basis of pride or one that exposes one’s nakedness.

### THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE DRESS FOR A MUSLIM MAN

1. As regards the principles governing dress, Islam is clear on both man and woman’s dress.  
Allah says in **Q (24:30)**;                    *“Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their chastity. That is pure for them...”*
2. From the above verse, the rules concerning the dress for male Muslims are summarized. In the first place, they are asked to lower their eyes whenever they meet their opposite sexes except those who are not lawful for them to marry.

3. A male Muslim must cover the nakedness of his body which lies between the navel and knees. However, it is discouraged to expose other parts of the body save for the face, head, hands, legs and arms.
4. He must not put on tight clothes so as to reveal the shape of his body like chest packs and heaps.
5. Thin and light clothes are discouraged for a male Muslim. He must put on thick clothes to avoid revealing the colour or handsomeness of his skin.
6. Muslim men must not put on very beautiful clothes so as to attract the attention of others. This is because it is a way of showing-off that is haram in Islam.
7. Muslim men are forbidden to wear silk and gold. This is the prophet PBUH attributed it to a dress of a man with no character. He also plainly said;  
*“Do not wear silk because those who wear it in this life shall not wear it in the hereafter.”*
8. A man is not supposed to dress like women. Use of ornaments and earrings and other items known for women is openly prohibited e.g beads, necklaces, lipstick and others.
9. He is not allowed to put on like non-believers or to wear clothes identified with non-believers. The prophet PBUH is reported to have said that whoever identifies himself with a group is a member of that group.
10. Muslim men are asked to shorten their garments above their ankles. Long garments are associated with arrogant and proud Jahiliyya Arabs.
11. It is recommended for Muslim men to grow their beard and trim their moustache and other parts of the body like pubic places.
12. Wearing long or short hair is one’s preference. However, braided hair or use of dye is not allowed, including hair styles in the head.
13. The use of perfume is strongly recommended for Muslim men especially on special days like Friday and Idd days.