Liberated Women and their Daughters

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Over the last few decades, social commentators have written about the lack of modesty in the current generation and the reasons for it. A recent contribution to the discussion came from an op-ed by Jennifer Moses entitled "Why Do We Let Them Dress Like That?" She talks about women of a liberated generation who now wrestle with their eager-to-grow-up daughters and their own pasts.

She attempts to answer a simple question: "Why do so many of us not only permit our teenage daughters to dress like this—like prostitutes, if we're being honest with ourselves—but pay for them to do it with our AmEx cards?" It's a good question. When you see a young girl dressed provocatively, you have to wonder who paid for it. After all, a young girl usually doesn't have the financial means to pay for the outfits she wears. So why does Mom go along with this?

Jennifer Moses has an answer. "We are the first moms in history to have grown up with widely available birth control, the first who didn't have to worry about getting knocked up. We were also the first not only to be free of old-fashioned fears about our reputation but actually pressured by our peers and the wider culture to find our true womanhood in the bedroom."

While those experiences could actually be used by moms to warn their daughters of the dangers of a promiscuous lifestyle, they do just the opposite. These feminist don't want to be considered hypocrites.

And the mothers are conflicted. Jennifer Moses talks about a mother she knows with two mature daughters who said: "If I

could do it again, I wouldn't even have slept with my own husband before marriage."

The Bible teaches in 1 Timothy 2:9 that "women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control." Even secular social commentators have talked about a "return to modesty."

Jennifer Moses helps us understand why teaching modesty to this generation of young girls have become so difficult for their mothers. It's time for mothers to stop worrying about being called hypocrites and start acting like mothers. I'm Kerby Anderson, and that's my point of view.