



Messages to Young People

YOUTH TELECONFERENCE

A Brief History of Dreadlocks

From their very beginning, dreadlocks have been tied to religious service and spiritualism. They are most recently, and popularly, associated with the Rastafarians of Jamaica, but their use goes even further back to the Hindu holy men of the east. (Jata is the name for dreadlocks in Hindi.) They are also called locks or dreads in Western culture.

Dreadlocks entered popular culture due, in large part, to Bob Marley, who made the wearing of dreadlocks appear honorable, especially since much of what he sang and wrote was based *very* loosely upon scripture.

Just because most people today who have decided to adorn themselves with dreadlocks have little idea of the origin of those locks, it doesn't mean that they are benign or acceptable for God's people. A study of dreadlocks show that many different ethnic groups have worn them, including the ancient Egyptians, Semetic people of West Asia, Sadhus of India and Nepal, Turkic people of Anatolia and Central Asia, and many others. And in all cases, there is historical evidence to show that the wearing of dreadlocks has had spiritual significance for the people mentioned.

Wearing dreads to the god of fashion is no less dangerous than wearing it in honor of any other false god. God calls for us to be separate and distinct, and we cannot serve God while using a style or type of adornment that is used by worshippers of other gods. This God clearly condemns in Deuteronomy 12:28-32.

Deuteronomy 12:28-32 KJV

(28) Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest *that which is* good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God. (29) When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land;

(30) Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. (31) Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. (32) What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

As you can see, what we wear, and even the style of our hair play a significant role in the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan.