

Christian Girls WEAR HIJAB IN TEXAS?

Written by www.IslamsWomen.com

Friday, 02 January 2015 00:00 - Last Updated Friday, 02 January 2015 19:35

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Hijab For A Christian?



**Ms. Wall from Texas says,
'It makes me aware of God'
[Texas Girl LOVES Her Hijab](#)**

A 'Covered Body'?

It gives this Christian girl whole new outlook!

Why? -

As a white woman from a small, West Texas town, Ms. Wall said, *"I wanted to know what it would be like to be part of a "noticeable minority."*

Spencer Wall, a 20-year-old sociology and English senior from Texas, decided to assume the characteristics and attire of a "typical" Muslim woman for a year starting in late April.

She wears the "hijab" and loose-fitting clothing everywhere she goes and does not consume pork or alcohol in public. She avoids eye and physical contact with men and has adopted modest habits like walking with her arms glued to her sides or crossed in front of her to hide her chest.

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"I'm not representing Muslim women or the Muslim community," she says. "I just want to know what it's like to walk in their shoes . . ."

She insists her decision is not a social experiment but, it is more about her personal learning experience.

I first noticed Ms. Wall in my religion and society class toward the end of last semester. She wasn't particularly outspoken, but the shawl that covered her hair, neck and shoulders made her stand out in the large class.

I usually gave her nothing more than a completely unconscious glance. But when she revealed to the class the decision that she made on April 27, I suddenly became aware of the attention I gave her.

I witnessed the looks Wall gets on a daily basis when we met at Kerbey Lane on the Drag recently.

She's wearing a hijab splashed with vibrant shades of green and blue. A long-sleeved, black shirt and floor-length aqua skirt reveals only a few inches of skin.

Some who pass us try to be inconspicuous with their intrigue, limiting themselves to quick side glances. But most don't even try to be candid with their exaggerated double-takes or blatant stares.

She passes by a group waiting to be seated, and all of them stare at the back of her head as she walks away. One guy even rolls his eyes.

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"It doesn't surprise me," she says when I tell her about the group. "But look around. They're not the only ones."

Initially, Wall elaborates on her *"learning experience"* when people would ask her questions, the most common being *"So, where are you from?"* She has abandoned these efforts.

Now, when people ask about her attire, she simply says,

"I'm not Muslim" but wears the hijab, "because I choose to do it".

This explanation is not entirely untrue, as Wall admits to not being able to leave her home without the clothing.

"I decided a while ago that I was going to try and not wear the hijab for 24 hours," she says. "I couldn't even make it for half that."

Wall says she receives different reactions when she wears the hijab.



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* One man once fell into a display at Wal-Mart because he was staring at her.

* One day a group of men at the restaurant where she works refused to be served by her. They also called her very nasty bad names.

But most of the time she said she is just respectfully avoided.

"I wouldn't say guys don't hit on me, but they do so in a very different way now," she says. "It's more respectful, less forward."

The experience has taught Wall to pay attention to smaller details that would make a traditional Muslim lifestyle difficult to follow in the United States.

One day at a clothing store, Wall had to ask for a sheet to cover a gap between the floor and dressing room door so she could hide her bare legs as she changed.

Her job as a waitress presents one of the most awkward situations as it naturally entails a lot of physical contact with strangers:

"That is just not permitted for Muslim women", she said.

Wall has grown to appreciate this sort of privacy and, in some ways, respect it.

Perhaps the most unexpected outcome of the experience is a newfound devotion to her belief in God.

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The Islamic faith requires followers to pray five times a day, the first prayer being at 5 A.M.

Although she has not yet assumed the tradition of five times a day, she admits she may do so in the future, but she does pray a lot more often.

“You know we live in a society that is very unconscious of daily religious activities,” she said. “Throughout this experience, I have noticed myself becoming much more aware of God.”

Throughout our conversation, I find myself wanting to discuss the most obvious topic, but can't bring it up without having to continually justify myself. Doesn't she feel constricted and even oppressed by the practices she is assuming?

Wall's candidness to discuss such issues validates my impression of her. She constantly reassures me to ask even the most probing questions and to present any debate, illustrating a maturity and intelligence uncommon for a 20-year-old.

“This experience has taught me to respect a woman's decision to stay home with her children or wear a hijab or go out and become CEOs,” Wall said.

She finishes her sentence, as I notice a young woman staring at the back of Wall's head.

Her eyes momentarily follow the outline of the brightly colored veil and then quickly move away. Instead of feeling sorry for Wall and assuming that the attention is warranted by feelings of resentment or fear, I soon wonder if the girl is instead intrigued by the hijab.

Wall admits to only showing her hair in the most intimate of settings, and I realize that I'm slightly jealous of someone who respects something I easily take for granted.

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What are your thoughts?

Should she become a Muslim? Should she stop wearing hijab until she does? Can she just do her prayers, believe in God and keep wear hijab without being a Muslim?

Could she continue learning about Islam and take everything just one step at a time?

Leave a message (*right here below*) for her (*and other Christian girls*)!

Let her read it and think about what she is really doing, inshallah.

Tell any women you know about www.IslamsWomen.com
(*or did you know about it?*)

