

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

June 24

2018

Dress Modestly

It is now summertime, and because of that immodest dress will become more frequent. Why? Well, because many will be dressing down (i.e. wearing less clothing) as an attempt to stay cooler, in an attempt to soak up some sun, or as an attempt to keep up with the latest summer fashion trends.

For example, many men will be going shirtless while mowing their lawns in the view of the public, many women will be wearing next to nothing while sunbathing in the view of their neighbors or anyone else who goes by, and many will wear short shorts, low cut tank tops, and skimpy two piece bathing suits which expose too much flesh, while they too are in clear view of the public eye.

Now, some may be thinking, yeah, so what? Well, the problem is, the Scriptures emphasize modest dress (1 Timothy 2:9-10) and when defined the word modest means “orderly; well-arranged; decent.” Again, one may be thinking and even argue that the above examples do not include total nakedness, therefore those who dress in such a way are decent and should not be considered as dressing immodestly.

However, the modern world view of decent is totally different compared to God’s. For instance, the modern world views nakedness as total nudity, but the Bible (God’s all inspired word) describes nakedness not only as total nudity (Genesis 3:7), but also as partial nudity (Genesis 3:10). You see, when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they became ashamed of their nakedness, so they covered themselves with

fig leaves, and then they attempted to hide themselves from the presence of the Lord (Genesis 3:7-8). However, no one can escape the presence of the Lord (Proverbs 15:3) and in an attempt to justify himself Adam told the Lord God that he was afraid because he was naked, so he hid himself (Genesis 3:10).

Now notice, what Adam told the Lord God. He said, he was afraid because he was naked, but yet he was covered by fig leaves. So, you see, we can learn from these passages in Genesis chapter 3 that partial nudity is still considered nakedness. Therefore, the Lord God made Adam and Eve tunics of skin and clothed them (Genesis 3:21). Friends, the point is, although some today are covering themselves with short shorts, low cut tank tops, and skimpy two piece bathing suits, they are still partially nude, and are freely and unacceptably exposing their nakedness.

Again, so may be thinking so what’s the harm in this? Well, the harm in exposing nakedness is, it is not acceptable to God (Exodus 20:26, 28:42), it can lead to fornication (2 Samuel 11:1-5), it can promote lust (Matthew 5:28; 1 John 2:16), and it can cause a stumbling block for some which we must guard against (Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 8:9). So, knowing this my friends, we need to beware of the harm of inappropriately exposing our nakedness, and we must never promote sin in any way, for as the apostle Paul informs, “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

Folks, let us all take those thoughts to heart, and let’s always dress modestly, let’s never become conformed to the world (Romans 12:2), let’s always deny ungodliness and worldly lust (Titus 2:12), let’s be one who is blameless and harmless without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (Philippians 2:15), and let’s be one who always strives to bring glory unto God in all that we do (Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

Ladies and gentlemen, I once heard a gospel preacher say, “Man is the only creature that can blush, or needs too.” However, sadly, there are many today who feel no shame or need to blush when it comes to immodesty. So, once more, may we all understand the importance of modest dress, and let’s always be one who dresses modestly at all times. For, my friends, it is time that we quit ignoring

the dangers of immodesty, and we need to avoid it, we need to teach our children and grandchildren about it, and we need to expose those who practice it (Ephesians 5:11). *✍ Brad Phillips*



Some Thoughts On Our Dress

Several years ago in south Florida I preached a lesson on the problem of immodest apparel. After services a woman came up to me and said, “I get so tickled at you preachers from the north, you come down her and talk about out shorts and bathing suits and we don’t think anything about it.” I tell people that is the only time in my life that I have been accused of being from the north, however, her statement truly reflects the attitude of so many. The immodesty has become so prevalent that most think nothing of it.

Years ago a man by the name of Alexander Pope said, “*Vice is a monster of so frightful mien; As to be hated needs but to be seen; Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face, We first endure, then pity, then embrace.*” I am convinced that this is exactly what has happened. We see the immodesty on every hand and we soon think nothing about it (we endure). Next, our daughter or someone close to us starts wearing the skimpy attire and we defend her (we pity). Once we start defending the immodesty it isn’t long until we join the crowd and shed our modesty (we embrace). Just because something has become acceptable to the masses does not change God’s word. I encourage you to read (and reread) the previous article by Brad Phillips. Don’t become like that woman in Florida. Think something about your relationship to God. Following His word is the only way you can be right with Him. *✍ James Hahn*



HAVE YOU NOTICED?

How easy it is to find the time to do the things we really enjoy doing and how hard it is to find the time to do the things we do not enjoy doing? Could it be that this explains why it is so hard for some to find time to study the Bible or teach it to others, but seem to have no problem finding time to watch their favorite TV program or

engage in some recreational activity?

Brethren, let us make sure we have our priorities in order. See Matthew 6:24-34. *✍ James Hahn*



Our Salvation

A few years ago a man stated, “The only thing salvation was predicated on in the New Testament was whether or not one believed that Jesus was the Son of God. Nothing that is not essential to salvation should be made a test of fellowship.” This statement seems to reflect the attitude of many today who wish to ignore doctrinal differences and fellowship anyone, regardless of what they believe and practice. However, in Acts 2 Peter had presented evidence convincing those Jews that the Jesus they crucified was the one God raised to be Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36). When they asked what they need to do Peter did not tell them they had already done all they need to do but said they needed to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38).

Paul said, “*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them*” (Ephesians 5:11). Men may say fellowship everyone who believes Jesus is the son of God but I will take my stand with the word of God.

✍ James Hahn

Belleville church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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