

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

June 14

2009

TRY AGAIN

Some of us (I'm sorry to say the number is getting fewer and fewer) have continually spoken against the lack of modesty and shamefacedness (1 Timothy 2:9) that is so prevalent in our society today and is even true of many members of the Lord's body. It seems that much of our teaching on this problem falls on deaf ears but I am going to try again to encourage all to dress as individuals professing godliness.

I have also observed the same situation mentioned in the following article. I might add that the problem is not limited to social gatherings or public places in general. It is also a problem in our worship assemblies. It is a shame the way some come dressed in the most revealing, low-cut tops or short skirts that become even more revealing when sitting.

Let me again emphasize to all; when you go out in your shorts (men or women) and other immodest attire you are not dressing as Christians should and you are not setting the kind of example for others, especially new Christians, that you should. Please read the following article and **THINK.** (JH)



The Picnic

It was a gorgeous day in May, and a family from church had invited everybody over for a get-together. Carl, who had only been baptized a few months earlier, was looking forward to socializing

with the other young people. So, juggling some grocery bags, and with a camera around his neck, he rounded the corner of the house and entered the backyard.

What he saw caught him slightly off guard. At one end of the driveway, on a makeshift basketball court, eight of his brothers in Christ were already heavily into a game. Several had their shirts off, and some in shorts some in tank tops and jeans, were obviously having a great time. A number of the females had also dressed for the warm weather. In shorts of varying lengths and low cut, breezy tops, they were mingling and talking, some sitting, some standing.

Carl blushed instinctively, and his eyes awkwardly moved away. He was not used to seeing these Christians not fully clothed. And he wasn't sure why it bothered him. Oh, he had heard 1 Timothy 2:8-9 mentioned in passing, about women dressing modestly, and he knew it had something to do with women who claimed to be godly. And he had heard Jesus' statement about looking on a woman to lust (Matthew 5:28). But in his brief Christian life, he could quote neither passage. And besides, what little he had been taught about clothing from the pulpit had generally emphasized that the whole subject was a matter of opinion, and a scruple that mature Christians had outgrown. Still, something didn't seem quite right. Maybe it was the vague remembrance of God having clothed Adam and Eve in the beginning. Maybe it was his own desire to look, or the less-than-pure thoughts fighting their way into his mind. Carl didn't know...all he knew for sure was that looking at some of his sisters in Christ made him uncomfortable.

But everybody seemed to be having such a good time. Carl soon assured himself that he was overreacting, expecting Christians to be too different, and he relaxed. He even took the pictures of his new friends that he had intended to take, to show his parents.

But the next week while showing the pictures, the uneasiness returned. The photos didn't lie. There they were, caught in all sorts of positions; a mixed company of disciples who looked like they'd left their discretion at home. Did these Christians really realize how much of their bodies they were revealing? They were good people. Surely they wouldn't let their mere comfort or the culture override their concern for being a stumbling block to others. Maybe if they saw the pictures, how they really looked, it would make them think.

Just how far could they go and still believe the way they dressed was ok? Carl wondered.

✍ Jim King



Hear Ye Him

On “*a high mountain*” when Moses and Elijah appeared to Peter, James, and John along with our “*transfigured*” Lord, God said, “*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him*” (Mt. 17:5). Consider some questions that profound statement should raise.

1) What is the implication of God’s statement? The statement identifies and sanctifies Jesus as the only true prophet of God for this age. Previously, at various times and in different ways, God spoke “*unto the fathers, by the prophets,*” but, now, He “*hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he hath made the worlds*” (Heb. 1:1-2). God, through Moses, spoke of a prophet who would come out of the Jewish nation and be like Moses, a lawgiver and deliverer. He would bring and speak God’s law. He would speak what God commanded him to speak, nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else (John 12:49; Deut. 18:18). Everyone who hears “*that prophet*” will be accepted, but everyone who refuses to hear him “*shall be destroyed*” (Deut. 18:15-19; Acts 3:22-23). There will be no tabernacle of worship and service built for Moses. There will be no tabernacle built for Elijah. The blood of animals has been replaced by the blood of Jesus (Heb. 10:1-10); the prophets have been superseded by “*that prophet*”. The word of Moses, the law of Moses and the prophets, is dead (Rom. 7:4; Col. 2:14-16). The law of Christ prevails, “*hear ye him.*”

2) Where does that leave today’s diverse religious world? It leaves them ‘out in the cold’, it leaves them no room or voice at all. What does that say of their man-made laws, traditions and rituals? It washes them all away. It blots them out and abolishes them completely. Salvation is in Christ and in Him alone (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12). Revelation is from Christ and Him alone, “*Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God*” (2 John 9). The law of Christ prevails, “*hear ye him.*”

3) What about “latter day” revelations? What of the *Koran*? What of the *Book of Mormon*? What of the creeds, catechisms, and

traditions of so-called ‘Christian’ denominationalism? “*But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed*” (Gal. 1:8, 9). The apostles were guided into “*all truth*” by the Spirit who gave to them the words of Christ (Jn. 14:26; 16:13-14; 1 Cor. 2:6-13). Since “*all truth*” was given and “*was once for all delivered*” (Jude 3) for all time, all other doctrines and traditions, even if they came from the tongues of apostles or angels, are to be rejected, repudiated, and renounced (Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Tim. 3:16). The law of Christ prevails, “*hear ye him.*”

✍ Ryan J. Thomas



THANKS

We thank Skip Sebree for the lessons on prayer presented during our Summer Bible Series last week.

I begin a meeting today with the Bell Road church in Nashville, Tennessee. Thanks to those teaching and preaching here in my absence. (JH)

Belleville church of Christ	
5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258	
www.bellevillechurch.net	
Schedule of Services	Elders
Sun. Bible Study..... 9:30 a.m.	Charles Carpenter... (317) 839-3873
Sun. Morning Worship... 10:30 a.m.	James Hahn. (317) 745-1507
Sun. Evening Worship. 5:00 p.m.	
Wed. Bible Study..... 7:00 p.m.	
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