

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

June 25

2023

## Beware: “It’s Bare Season”

We have once again come to that time of the year that some refer to as “bare season.” You see, summertime is here, and because of that many will be baring all that they can in an attempt to cool down from the warmer temperatures, and in an attempt to keep up with the so called “latest fashion trends.”

However, we need to beware of “bare season,” and although many men will be going shirtless and wearing short shorts while mowing their lawns this summer, along with many women who will be wearing practically nothing while sunbathing in clear sight of anyone who happens to pass by, along with many others who will be wearing skimpy outfits that expose way too much flesh, we must not practice such, or approve of those who do.

You see, although the world views nakedness as being totally nude, the Scriptures, the all inspired word of God (2 Timothy 3:16) says nakedness is not only being totally nude (Genesis 3:7) (i.e. the word naked here is used when Adam and Eve first realized they were totally nude), but also nakedness is referred to in the Scriptures as being partially nude (Genesis 3:10) (i.e. the word naked is used here after Adam and Eve had made themselves girding coverings, and

covered themselves). However, this partial covering of the body was not acceptable to God, as we go onto read and learn in Genesis 3:20, “Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin and clothed them.”

Therefore, Christians need to understand the difference between the worlds view of nakedness, and what God’s word says about nakedness. So, you see, Christians must recognize that exposing nakedness is not acceptable to God (Exodus 20:26, 28:42). They must likewise realize that nakedness can lead to the lust of the flesh, and promote fornication (2 Samuel 11:1-5), it can cause a stumble block for some (Matthew 5:28), and we must abstain from causing a stumbling block which may cause others to fall (Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 8:9).

So, knowing that, let’s beware of “bare season” and let’s be a people who dress modestly, in a way that is orderly, well arranged, or decent (1 Timothy 2:9-10). Let’s never become conformed to the world and its views (Romans 12:1-2). Let’s always deny ungodliness and worldly lust (Titus 2:12). Let’s strive to be one who is blameless and harmless without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (Philippians 2:15), and let’s do all that we do (including the way in which we dress) to the glory of God (Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

Now, with that said, let’s all take this subject to heart, let’s always understand the importance of modest dress, let’s teach these much needed principals to our children and grandchildren, and let’s be a people who always dress modestly, no matter what time of the year it is!

*✍️ Brad Phillips*

## Bare Facts

It is quite common for a person to be immodestly dressed. However, Christians are to shun this practice in keeping with the Scriptures in 1 Timothy 2:9,10 -- "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." Compare also 1 Peter 3:3,4.

The word of God censures the wearing of gaudy or sensually appealing clothes. A person may be guilty of this by "overdressing" through pride or vanity.

It seems to be equally possible for people to be immodestly undressed. At the season when little boys are thinking of going barefooted, their older brothers and sisters frequently "out-strip" them by baring considerably more than a foot.

Some pretend that this virtual undressing is to make the summer heat more bearable. Whom do they fool? They are not fooling those who have been in tropical climates and have seen demonstrated the fact that the surest way to parch to a crisp is by ignoring the need for a protective layer of light clothing.

Then, too, this disrobing always begins in the spring long before the weather becomes unbearably warm.

The psychologist understands that the wearing of

scant clothing is an expression of the yearning which so many have to be bold, daring and risqué. It is a sensual form of exhibitionism. There is no shred of modesty in it.

Time was when such talk pointed to the public swimming places. Now it includes the front lawn, sidewalks, and streets of every city and town.

About all that remains to be done by those who want to be more bold than the rest is complete nudity. How long will our laws against even that be enforced?

Chastity involves more than abstinence from adultery. It includes a modest avoidance of that which encourages adulterous thought.

*✍ Bob Crawley*

### Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study .....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship .....	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study .....	7:00 p.m.

#### Evangelist

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