
Satan is Having a Field Day

Introduction

- Based on our dress, can others see that we take Christ's sacrifice seriously?
1. We are once again entering the season where it gets hot and as a result, many get out their underwear disguised as "clothing" in an attempt to "stay cool".
 - A. The worldly people think nothing of wearing shorts, swim suits in public, tight fitting bike shorts, halter tops, and anything else that they think they can get away with, and still be as close to nakedness as excusable in an effort to "stay cool."
 - 1) The sad thing today is that this attitude has also infected the Lord's church.
 - 2) Some children and PARENTS are wearing clothing that a Christian should not even think about wearing.
 2. Satan will be having a field day during these summer months.
 - A. He has worked on the worldly, and he is really working on the children of God!
 - B. In many cases he is winning the battle and in some cases he is winning without a fight!
 - 1) We must be concerned with what is happening.
 - 2) Parents have a responsibility to teach our children now while they are young the dangers of immodesty, mixed swimming, and dancing.

3. **If we do not want our children to be involved in these things when they are teenagers, then they have NO BUSINESS doing them now! (Proverbs 22:6)**

Immodest Apparel Everywhere!

1. **Immodesty is an area that has a direct relationship between the individual and worldliness or godliness!**
 - A. **Everyday we can open up our newspaper and see adds enticing one to buy immodest apparel.**
 - 1) **Newspaper advertising Target and Wal-Mart stores (bathing suits, skimpy summer clothes)**
 - a. **What are these adds trying to sell? Some pictures could easily be put into a pornographic magazine!**
 - B. **These adds are aimed at appealing to an individual's lusting desires. This is called "Lasciviousness."**
 - 1) **Webster defines lascivious as "expressing lust or lewdness; wanton. tending to excite lust." That is what each man and woman fights when one sees individuals wearing immodest apparel!**
2. **It is evident today that many have crept into the church with lascivious attitudes, without any regard to what they are wearing or what others may think of them. We have warnings concerning the sin of lasciviousness:**

Jude 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, **who turn the grace of our God into lewdness** (lasciviousness - KJV) and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — **when we walked in lewdness**, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

Ephesians 4:19 who, being past feeling, **have given themselves over to lewdness**, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

2 Corinthians 12:21 lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have **not repented of the uncleanness**, fornication, **and lewdness** which they have practiced.

3. A gospel preacher by the name of L.A. Stauffer who began preaching in the late 1950's recalled that what we commonly call "immodest apparel" was worn only by weak and indifferent members of the church back when he started preaching.

A. Today, those that have been Christians for many years and who should "know better" are not only letting their children dress immodestly but in some cases are teaching them to do so by the things they wear themselves!

1) I wonder — when do we begin dressing for the Lord and then undressing for the Lord?

B. We cannot control what others are (or not) wearing but we have direct control over our own lives and the lives of our children that we have been entrusted by God to raise in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

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- 1) **Children wear what they do because of a lack of teaching in this area.**
 - 2) **Schools, print media, TV and Movie productions bombard our children (and parents) with “do your own thing,” “you only go around once in life,” “take care of number one,” etc.**
- C. **Sadly, near nudity has become so commonplace in our homes that kids view it as a normal part of life.**
- 1) **When one dresses in such a way to create “lust” and “desire” in someone other than their wife or husband, they promote lasciviousness.**
 - a. **Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:9-10**

1 Timothy 2:9-10 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for **women professing godliness**, with good works.

- b. **Let’s look at some key words in this passage.**

MODEST: “orderly, well-arranged, decent, of good behavior.”

PROPRIETY (SHAMEFACEDNESS): “decency” “that modesty which is rooted in the character.”

MODERATION (SOBRIETY): “habitual inner self-government, with its constant rein on the passion and desires.”

2) Before one can properly put these words into use, one must understand what standard they choose to be governed by.

a. As a Christian we should only be governed by the standard of GOD!

Romans 12:1-2

1 Peter 1:15-16; 2:9

2 Corinthians 6:17

Parents - Don't Make Excuses

1. We parents have direct control over our children – or at least we should!

A. The example we set and what we tell our children to do is something that we have absolute control over. Who has the authority in the family anyway?

B. God should be ruling our house first and then the husband. Men, are we ensuring that our wife and children are dressing according to God's standard and not man's?

1) Some parents may say "Oh, they're just little boys and girls, what will it hurt for them to wear a swimming suit and swim with their friends?"

a. These same little boys and girls will grow into men and women and the example we set, the instructions we give them now, will determine their line of reasoning and thought later.

**b. Ok to swim publicly now --- but not later?
Exercise consistency!**

2. **We parents must recognize the excuses that our children might give us for wearing immodest clothing.**
 - A. **Of course they might not see some of these things as “immodest” because we have not taught them such. We may hear excuses such as, “It’s so much cooler to wear these clothes,” “The stores don’t sell anything else.”**
 - B. **It is true they are cooler, but are they modest? And yes, the stores really do sell some modest clothing, but that is what we’ve got to be looking for.**
 - C. **Another excuse is “But mom, everybody else does.”**
John 15:18-25
 - 1) **Let us not risk our soul just to be popular with others.**

Swimming Pools and Christians

1. **Before we can go swimming, we first must have a “swimsuit.” Have you ever heard of a “modest swimsuit sale?”**
 - A. **Where can you go to find a non-revealing, modest, loose fitting, godly swimsuit? If a bathing suit is modest apparel, what would be immodest apparel?**
 - 1) **Based upon what I have seen people wearing today, I guess some would say that everything is modest except underwear. Again, what’s the difference?**
 - B. **Before you go swimming in mixed company, make sure you are dressed modestly “befitting of a Christian” and others are doing likewise.**

- 1) **If others are not, as a Christian we have no business subjecting ourselves and our children to the fruits of Satan.**

C. Remember, we are Christians first and foremost. Let us not do anything that would create a stumbling block before others (Matthew 18:7), and cause another to think lewd thoughts. Lust is sinful. It is sinful to lust after someone else and it is sinful to dress in such a way as to cause others to lust after us.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 Test all things; hold fast what is good. **Abstain from every form** (appearance - KJV) **of evil.**

Conclusion

1. **We must all remember to put Christ FIRST in our lives this summer and every day that we live.**
2. **We should sincerely desire to keep ourselves pure in every way.**
 - A. **Parents, here are some additional verses to think about for our own and our children's benefit as we are "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:" (Matthew 28:20)**

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: **"Evil company corrupts good habits."**

2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

1 Timothy 5:22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; **keep yourself pure.**

1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

3. It is important that we continue to strive to do that which is right in God's sight, not man's.

A. We also should not become so discouraged that we quit speaking out in behalf of righteousness, godliness, and modesty!

B. Don't worry about what others might think of us and that we might dress "different" from them because we need to remember that it is God we are aiming to please not our fellow man!

1) Parents must help our children see this.

C. Don't let Satan sway us into wearing immodest clothing just because "everyone" else is.

1) Stand up and be counted a Christian "...rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

2 Corinthians 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

