

However, the motivation given in the passages regarding modesty does not address doing it for the sake of others. After Peter pointed out that the external clothing is not where it's at, he said that the focus needs to be "*the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious*" (1 Pe 3:4). When Paul gave instructions (1 Ti 2:9-10), he said the dress needs to be what is proper for those who "profess godliness."

These are speaking about the inner person, and the point is that the outer is going to reflect the inner (Mt 15:19). This means modesty is self-regulated because it begins in one's heart. Just know that what you wear will reflect what's on the inside, and this matters to God because you are His. "*You shall be holy, for I am holy*" (1 Pe 1:16).

The primary reason we ought to dress appropriately is that God finds a particular **attitude** precious (of great value), and our dress will reflect this attitude. What others think or don't think is not the issue raised by either Peter or Paul. What God thinks is primary. An attitude

that seeks the character of God and doing what is precious in God's sight is what this is all about. The question then is how we want to represent what God considers to be of such great value. Modest dress shows a modest heart.

The next time we wonder whether our clothing is appropriate, instead of wondering, "Will a man lust?" or "Will a woman think something inappropriate?" ask, "Will God find my attitude precious, and my dress reflect this attitude? Will this glorify Him?" Regulate yourself with a heart for God. When you get dressed, know that your body belongs to God first (1 Co 6:19-20), then to your spouse (7:3-4).

Once God is taken from the equation, the rest really does not matter. If we want to ignore what God finds precious, then we'll do what we want anyway. A man who is given to lust will lust regardless of what a woman wears (and vice-versa). But when we dress in a way that reflects a heart seeking after God's heart, we've done well no matter what others may think.

- Doy Moyer  
(edited for space)

## Light and Life

## Spend and Be Spent

"...I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls..." (II Cor. 12:15).

Throughout the life and ministry of the apostle Paul, it is clear that the relationships he formed with the people he taught ran as deep as any human bond can. Of his evangelism in Thessalonica, he wrote, "we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us" (I Thess. 2:8).

After laboring among the Ephesian Christians for three years, Paul gathered the elders to him for final instructions and encouragement before his departure for Jerusalem – and Rome. "When he had said these things... they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more" (Ac. 20:36-37). Then, after spending only a week with the church at Tyre, "when we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city, and we knelt down on the shore and prayed" (Ac 21:5-6).

Why was Paul so close to these people? Because he was involved in their lives! A lot of people today become discontent with their churches because they don't feel this type of connection. The obvious question, then, is whether they have done anything to develop these relationships? Coming to church early and staying late to visit (further than the obligatory and superficial 'How are you?') can go a long way in building these relationships. Changing where you sit to get to know other members better can help too! And if you're feeling like going the extra mile – invite someone to dinner!

As we work to get each other to heaven, let's spend – and be spent!

- Sam Bunyard

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Class 9:30  
Morning Assembly 10:30  
Evening Assembly 5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

## RADIO PROGRAM

### The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.  
KURM 790AM

## Downtown Church of Christ

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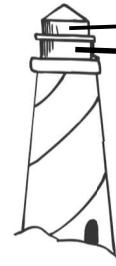
**Jesus sat with sinners but  
He did not sin with them;  
know the difference.**

## ELDERS:

Otis Hardin  
Perry Johnson  
Ken Parker  
Alan Revier  
GW Walsh

## DEACONS:

TJ Burleson  
Scott Hale  
Joel Heiligenthal  
Jason Hill  
Chris Johnson  
Brock McKeel  
Randy Potter  
Tim Roberts  
Randy Shell



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

July 2, 2023

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST – (this bulletin printed on June 12 due to scheduling conflicts)

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

*Sick:* G&K Fletcher, J&M Swim, J Marshall, S Shell, L&T Deen

*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis, V Carter

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**DATES TO REMEMBER** – Our Vacation Bible School will be July 16-20 with Bret Hogland, and Youth Lectures are August 4-5 with David Banning.

**SINGING** – Tonight is our regular monthly singing. Song leaders, come prepared to lead! Everyone else, come prepared to sing!

## Modesty: The Real Issue

I see a variety of discussions about modesty. Often, they seem to devolve into disputes about issues like women's empowerment, men's lustful habits, and where exactly the lines on a body should be. Instead, let's look at a couple of other points that need more attention.

We might note that "modest," with respect to clothing, has more to do with wearing too much than with wearing too little (1 Ti 2:9, 1 Pe 3:3). Too little clothing would be considered nakedness, and this, of course, depends upon the circumstances (private, public, married, etc.). And no, I don't think there is a

different standard for men than there is for women.

There is something else needing stress, however. We usually see discussions of modesty surrounding the question of whether something is going to make other people lust or think inappropriately (usually men, because they are – men). Surely if we know that someone has a problem, then any Christian who loves his or her brothers and sisters in Christ will be willing to forego even what they defend as liberty to help another who struggles. That's basic Romans 14 stuff.

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