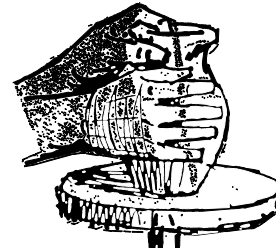


His Workmanship at Westside

*"For we are His
workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



Vol. XXII

June 16, 2013

No. 24

Isaiah 64:8

Modesty: Virtue Ignored, Part 3, The Heart of the Matter *by Jim Harmon*

"And if it seems evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you today whom you will serve; whether the gods that your fathers served on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." —Joshua 24:15

Joshua's command to Israel, coupled with his own declaration to serve the Lord, is a ringing reminder in every godly household. From the beginning, God's people have lived, and live today, in the land of the "Amorites," no matter where they are. The challenge for God's people is to live in that foreign land, a land that "lies in wickedness," yet without becoming like the foreigners. Matthew Henry explains: "Joshua puts them to their choice; but not as if it were indifferent [no one cared] whether they served God or not. 'Choose you whom you will serve' means now the matter is laid plainly before you. He resolves to serve God, whatever others did. Those that are bound for heaven must be willing to swim against the stream. They must not do as the most do, but as the best do. And no one can behave himself as he ought who does not deeply consider his

religious duties in family relations."

While Henry's insight could be applied to many situations, ground rules for dealing with modesty are certainly apparent in his idea that Christians "must be willing to swim against the stream," and that "They must not do as the most do, but as the best do."

As stated in Part I, Christians are called by God to live not just to a higher standard, but to the highest standard; a life in Christ is not merely a subculture that is biding its time until heaven, but a counterculture that desires above all to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects," Col 1:10. Paul was most emphatic in admonishing the Corinthians: "What? Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, Whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's," 1 Cor 6:19-20.

Glorify...your body? It is clear that fashion retailers whose advertising is sexually-oriented promote controversy as part of their marketing strategy. Controversy and popularity seem to go hand in hand, particularly

with a fashion-loving public. The fashion industry has a stranglehold on every category of the buying public—from crib to coffin. Fashion designers are revered as the seers of our time, knowing just how we should be adorning ourselves. We advertise their products free of charge, simply for the privilege and pleasure of being seen wearing their logos. We are "slaves to fashion." Image is king. In many ways, however, we are play-acting, continually trying to fit in with what is popular. It's a treadmill, and it's moving faster, scooping up younger and younger fans as it goes.

It used to be that diamonds were a girl's best friend, with clothes and cosmetics right behind. Now, cosmetic surgery is center stage, not just among showgirls, but homemakers, businessmen and women, and teenagers. There's a prevailing discontent, and a competitiveness that can only be satisfied if we can create a brighter, lighter, tighter, younger, and sexier self. A young professional woman, the subject on a television fashion makeover show, made this seemingly innocent but telling comment: "In this dress, I feel like a pre-continued on p. 2

"Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!" —1 Chronicles 16:29 (Psalm 29:2)

sent; I'm going to walk into the party and I won't be ignored." For the Christian woman, dealing with the demands and expectations of fashion can be a tug of war: The lure from the street is "glorify your body"; the call of the Bible is "glorify God in your body." **Modesty begins at home.** "Do new sexually themed ads send the wrong message to teens?" was the topic of discussion on *Dayside*, a daytime, audience-participation television program. Our initial response may well be, "Duh!" But that would seem not to take the issue seriously. So the task was to listen closely, hoping to learn something. Several mothers complained of their inability to monitor everything their children watch or read. A marketing representative defended advertising with sexual imagery and word-play because "companies have a right to differentiate themselves" in a very competitive market. He said the ads in question wouldn't be as effective if parents and other critics didn't draw so much attention to them. He advised parents to point their youngsters to stores whose clothing lines are "trendy, but not trashy." The marketing representative rightly, and predictably, made the case that it's really up to parents to set guidelines and standards for their children. Dr. Laura Schlessinger hammered this home in her book, *Parenthood By Proxy*—"Don't have them [children] if you won't raise them." Scripture takes the view that parents know what's best for their children. Godly parents have the obligation, and the authority, to *train, instruct, and discipline* their children, as well as to model godly behavior before them, Deut 6:4-9; Eph. 6:4. Children also have an obligation: to *obey* and *honor* their parents, Eph

6:1-3. God promises blessing to obedient children. That should be a powerful motivation for godly parents because they love their children and want God's blessing upon them. Today, many parents have developed a pattern of *responding* to their children rather than *instructing* and *training* them. They spend a lot of energy negotiating with their children, often lowering some standard in the process. Parents have been seduced by self-esteem propaganda (e.g., "My son is student of the month at...") and the liberal idea that a family should be a mini-democracy. The result is child-centered family relationships that may have more in common with anarchy than Biblical order and harmony. Muted in this scenario is the work of discipline, particularly spanking, attributable to the confusing and often contradictory counsel from psychologists, therapists, and other professionals. God's perspective on discipline is unmistakable: "*He who spares his rod hates his son; but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.*" Pr 13:24. Joshua declared before all the people, "*but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*" For Joshua, serving the Lord was a family affair. His was a right-side-up view of family. Godly parents, standing together as "benevolent dictators," should teach their children respect—respect for parents, for others, and for the holiness of God in every area of life—even when they don't like it. Parents who model and enforce Biblical moral and ethical values consistently in the family home are protecting their children by setting standards of thought and conduct that will help keep them anchored spiritually as they mature. **A wake-up call.** It's apparently a common practice on campus, but it

can be a crime—misdemeanor sexual battery. The newspaper article asked the question: "UCSB butt grabbing: Harmless fun or personal violation?" The article led with this perspective: "for many young people, the touch of a strange hand on their behind while walking down Del Playa on a Friday night is something routine, a part of the culture of late night parties fueled by alcohol. But some women say butt grabbing isn't a harmless flirtation—it's an unwanted personal violation." These women are right. Any unwanted touching is a criminal battery. But according to the article, campus police have observed that "both men and women seem to grab each other in equal numbers on Isla Vista streets." The article describes confusion and naiveté among students, male and female. Attitudes that result in such behavior testify loudly to the demise of modesty. Fashions that are designed to exalt the ego and attract attention to self and the flesh are a central influence in driving modesty into exile. Further, it's painfully obvious that it's a short jump from butt grabbing to other forms of sexual abuse, including rape. Parents cannot be complacent about these realities and their effects in shaping the attitudes of their children. **Double-mindedness.** Those who claim to "love the Lord" and yet wear provocative styles testify to their lack of wisdom and confounded loyalties. They put their personal reputation and the integrity of their speaking about Christ at risk. The Bible speaks of those that are "double-minded," and warns that they are "unstable" in all their ways and receive nothing from the Lord," Jas 1:7-8. More serious, particularly in the church, they pose
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Psalm 133:1



Fill your can-teen in 2013

“May you be filled with all the fullness of God.”
—Ephesians 3:19

Modesty, from p. 2

an unholy distraction and a stumbling block for others. The Bible warns that if a man looks with lust upon a woman he commits adultery in his heart, Mt 5:28 Temptation and lust form a deadly alliance. Its power is like being caught in a whirlpool. “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren,” Jas 1:14-16. Make no mistake, says James, lust kills the soul. **Willing to err.** A pastor, writing of his own experience with sexual sin, estimated that “about 50 percent of the men in a typical church are quietly—and sometimes desperately—struggling with sexual addiction.” As exaggerated as this seems, it is apparent that an alarming number of men are playing in a game that they can’t possibly win, Pr 9:17-18.

Adam didn’t get away with blaming God and Eve for his failure. Likewise, male Christians can’t blame the way some women dress or even “the way we’re wired” for their voyeuristic transgressions. Scripture is clear: it’s fundamentally a matter of discernment, self-discipline, and self-control, Mk 9:47; Rm 12:2; 1 Thes 4:3-8; Tit 2:6. A wise man will do his best to avoid situations that invite impure thoughts and lust, Lk 9:23; 1 Cor 6:18. He will

Discipleship Here At Home

do this through faith in God and His power, 1 Cor 10:13; Eph.3:20; Phil 4:13. He will do this because he fears God and doesn’t want to offend His holiness, Ps 51:4; 2 Cor 5:9-11, 7:1; 1 The. 4:2-5; because he understands and fears the consequences of disobedience, Heb 12:9-11; Jas 1:13-15. And knowing that lust rarely remains a private matter, he will do this because of his own reputation, Pr 22:1; Eccl 7:1, and out of consideration for others, Eph 5:3; 1 Thes 4:6, 5:22.

Against accusations of hypocrisy, Job responded with this focused and timeless defense: “I made a covenant with my eyes. Why then should I think upon a maid?” Job 31:1. Matthew Henry believes that Job could make that vow because “He understood the spiritual nature of God’s commandments, as reaching to the thoughts and intents of the heart.” For men Christians, adopting Job’s pledge would provide a potent safeguard against ever having to make a defense.

“If you love me...” Rules and moral standards are giving way to opinions and feelings; privileges are becoming rights; and authority is questioned at every turn. Yet Christians need not wring their hands or grit their teeth. Christians are to have a disposition of thankfulness regardless of circumstances. The Lord could expel every evil in a moment if He so chose.

That said, the particular temptations that assail Christians are not really the issue: Scripture treats troubles and temptations as common to every day life, Jn 16:33; 1 Cor 10:13; 1 Pet 1:6-7. The paramount issue is always how Christians choose to respond to them, Jn 14:15; Jas 1: 2-4.

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Special Sunday next week—WHO IS GOD? We’ll seek to understand and grow closer to the God Who reveals Himself in His word. Invite your friends!

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here and away

Madge Wallace—passed away 6/9 of lung cancer; memorial service 6/24

Gary Boyd —recovering from pneumonia

Judy Sartin—double pneumonia; acute bronchitis

Mark Campbell—in rehab after second head injury; recovering at home

Matt Reames—home, great improvement

Judy Strand’s son Joe Huff—recurrence of neurological symptoms, black-outs, from brain injury he suffered in a 2007 car accident

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangelli Jr;

Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes—asthma

Pearl Chapman—leg pains; pancreatitis

Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain

Rod Green—thyroid trouble

Autumn Hadders—epilepsy

Jonathan Hadders—RA

Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs help around his house

Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes;

Virginia, now legally blind from rapid macular degeneration; high BP

Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes

Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia

Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; pain

Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung

Job concerns **Andrew Tope, Lorenzo**

Gonzalez, and Frank Savarese are seeking jobs.

Traveling **Pat and Larry Campbell**

are in AR caring for Pat’s parents.

The **Wilkeses** are in NC for their grandson **Drew’s** HS graduation.

REJOICE **Brennan Blicharski**, who

studied the Bible online with **Joel Walker**

and **Jonathan Hadders**, and **John**

McLaughlin, a co-worker of **Vickie**

Reingrover, were recently baptized.

Expecting **Marie Carlson**—July 1 girl

Amy Vander Kooi—August, boy

Modesty: Virtue Ignored, Part 3 *from p. 3*

Adhering to a modest, godly standard of dress will require Christians to be thoughtful and selective in their shopping. It also requires being willing to be chided, even ridiculed, for the sake of reputation and the cause of Christ. These are not burdensome tasks when the law of Christ is "written in our hearts," 2 Cor. 3:2-3.

Modesty is not just a footnote to godly qualities. Nor is it a matter of anyone's preference or opinion. Modesty is an enduring moral principle. It emerges in God's covering of Adam and Eve in the garden; it is evident in the "holy garments" of the high priest, Ex 28:2, and regulations that governed the dress and conduct of the priesthood, Ex. 20:26, 28:42; it is clear in the instructions of Paul and Peter; and it is magnificently reflected in the white robes that will adorn God's saints in heaven, Rev 6:11; 7:9, 13-14. On the other hand, immodesty, in its many manifestations, is sinful behavior. The church gives lip service to the problem, but seems to lack the heart to draw guidelines, Is 29:13; 2 Tim 3:16-17. Without clear markers, immodesty, like "leaven," will increasingly influence us, 1 Cor 5:6; 2 Tim 3:1-5. In neglect and complacency, Christians give the devil opportunity, Eph. 4:27, and willfully turn away from what brings blessing, Ps. 1; Mt 5:3-12. Jesus must have astonished His disciples when, instead of promising relief from Roman rule, He announced that they could anticipate God's blessing *"when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."* He then informed them that they were *"the salt of the earth"* and *"the light of the world,"* Mt 5:11-14. His pronouncements must have given His listeners pause. Only through the process of time would they comprehend that God had charted their lives to be ones of responsibility, duty, purpose, and blessing—in His service.

Too often, Christians behave as if God's gracious purpose in salvation is to assure their happiness and fulfillment. Since we are saved by grace, they think they can live somewhat casually, enjoying worldly pleasures, because God will always forgive. After all, "we sin every day." Paul had a sobering warning in 2 Cor. 5:10-11.

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom," Pr 9:10. To think lightly of sin is to think lightly of Jesus, Jn 14:15. To think lightly of sin is to think too highly of self, Jas 4:4-10. To think lightly of sin is to ignore its consequences—death, Rm 6:23. Something dies when a Christian sins. To be Christian is to be maturing in character and virtue, Col 1:9-12; 2 Pet 1:5-11. Religion is ultimately about God. He has graciously, uniquely, and purposefully qualified every believer to live a life that pleases Him, a life that will demonstrate His love, His holiness, His sufficiency, Mt 5:16. *"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is,"* Eph 5:15-17. Let us examine ourselves, our thoughts, speech, and actions, as to whether we are honoring God.

Westside church of Christ

meets at
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Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 462-4987

DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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This afternoon:

▲ Walk in Their Sandals Series

"Joshua," by Justin Hambrick