

The Old Paths

Volume 21, Issue 27

August 31, 2014

“The Best Dressed People In The Church”

Jarrod Jacobs

Various magazines often print issues where they discuss the “best and worst dressed” people. Often, they focus upon movie stars, and other entertainers and what they are or are not wearing in Hollywood. Did you know that God wants His people to be clothed a certain way? He wants us clothed in a certain way not only physically (I Tim. 2:9-10; I Pet. 3:2-4), but spiritually. How can we know who the best dressed people in the sight of God are? The Bible reveals this answer to us. The best dressed people in the church will be:

Clothed With Humility

Peter said, “*Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble*” (I Pet. 5:5). Humility ought to be like a covering over us — where all aspects of our lives can be described as humble. In the Old Testament, Solomon taught that humility comes before honor (Prov. 16:18-19)! It is important that we get things in the right order, because destruction will come to those who are not humble (Prov. 15:33; 18:12)! Nebuchadnezzar understood that God is “*able to humble ... those who walk in pride*” (Dan. 4:37). Jesus said, “*And whoever exalts himself will be humbled; and whoever humbles himself will be exalted*” (Matt. 23:12). Notice what the apostle Peter said will happen

if we humble ourselves right now. “*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that at the proper time he may exalt you*” (I Pet. 5:6). If we humble ourselves in the presence of God now, the exaltation will come. Too many believe that they must exalt themselves in the eyes of men right now. Jesus dealt with those who tried this. He said that they have their reward already (Matt. 6:2, 5, 16). Are you clothed with humility?

Clothed As Described In Colossians 3:12

When the apostle Paul wrote the Colossian Christians, he listed the things that must be put off, and the things to put on. Let us read what he said: “*Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience*” (Col. 3:12). Let us take some time to study the characteristics that ought to be a part of each Christian’s life. In studying the verse, we see “*compassion*” as the first characteristic. “*Compassion*” is a necessary part of our lives and demands that we first have wisdom from above (Jas. 3:17). Next, “*kindness*” is a necessity in life today. More importantly, it is something we need to add to our faith (II Pet. 1:7). Third, we know that being “*humble*” was discussed already, but Colossians 3:12 shows us that humility needs to be put on in order to please God. It will not do for a Christian to be proud or arrogant and trusting in his/her own wisdom (Prov. 3:5-6). Let us show that

humility of mind in our words and in our actions. Next, “*meekness*” is something lacking in the lives of many today. Meekness is, “that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting, closely linked to the word ‘humility’ and follows directly upon it...” (Vine’s, p. 737-738). In other words, meekness is not weakness! It has commonly been defined as “strength under control.” God directs our lives, and so we use our strength to faithfully obey His will. In the New Testament, we learn that the fruit of the Spirit includes “*meekness*” (Gal. 5:23)! This ought to give us some idea of the importance God places upon meekness. Finally, “*patience*” is something we all need. The Galatians were told that the fruit of the Spirit includes “*patience*,” just as it included meekness. (Gal. 5:22). Knowing that God has always been patient toward us should motivate us to be patient with others (I Pet. 3:20; II Pet. 3:9).

Clothed With The Whole Armor Of God

Finally, the apostle Paul teaches us that a necessity for clothing the spiritual man is putting on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:13-17). Without having the protection of God’s armor, we are vulnerable to Satan’s onslaught (I Pet. 5:8). Please read these verses and notice that there is no armor for the back! God wants His children to stand strong for the Truth, not backslide during hard times! If Heaven is our goal, we must clothe ourselves with the whole armor of God Almighty!

Conclusion

Clothing our spiritual life with these qualities will produce the best dressed people in the church!

How are YOU dressed??

You Are An Example

Aric Russell

Christians today, especially younger Christians, are encouraged by their friends to speak, act, dress and live like people of the world. However, we as Christians should realize our responsibilities to Christ and be the kind of example that would be pleasing to Him. How many of us know people today that claim to be Christians that do not live the life of a Christian? They have let friends and others influence them to do things that are of this world. They have let the temptations of pleasure rule in their hearts. This is why we need to, as Christians, be an example to those around us. Do you remember the song we sing to our children, "This little light of mine"? We teach them from the time they are very little to stand out. Be different from the world. How are we doing with that today? Are we still letting our lights shine?

If we turn to the scriptures we can see that we are instructed to let our lights shine. Jesus spoke in Matthew 5:13-16 saying, *"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."* How are we doing with this? Are we letting our

lights shine around those with whom we come in contact every day? Do the people we work with even know we are Christians?

Notice also, if you will, the words Paul spoke to Timothy in I Timothy 4:12. He says there, *"let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."* This section of scripture teaches us that it doesn't matter how old you are, you can be an example. Let no one despise your youth. That is, don't let people look down on you because you are younger. Instead, stand out by being a righteous example.

Once again, how good of an example are you being to those around you? If you are younger, are you showing the proper example to your friends with whom you come in contact? If you are older, are you setting an example to your co-workers, your friends, and even more importantly, to your children? Titus 2:7-8 says, *"Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us."* Be the example you know you should be so that no one has anything evil to say about you.

"Four Guidelines For Modesty"

Michael Hyatt

Editor's Note:

Though September begins tomorrow, Lord willing we cannot stop being vigilant concerning modest and immodest apparel. Let us not allow the "seasons" to dictate whether or not we are modest! Rather, let us listen to the Lord and allow Him to tell us what constitutes modesty and immodesty (I Tim. 2:9-10; I Pet. 3:3-5; etc.) Below are 4 "guidelines" Mr. Michael Hyatt suggested for helping us determine what is and is not modest. I encourage our dear readers to read and consider his points in light of what the Bible says. -JJ

1. If you have trouble getting into it or out of it, it is probably not modest.
2. If you have to be careful when you sit down or bend over, it is probably not modest.
3. If people look at any part of your body before looking at your face, it is probably not modest.
4. If you can see your most private body parts or an outline of those parts under the fabric, it is probably not modest.

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