

The Lakeview Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105

July 10, 2005

"Dressed Down for Dressing Down"

Troy Nicholson

An article in last Monday's *Tennessean* (7-4-05) dealt with "Teachers getting dressed down for dressing down at job." One problem is that "some teachers are baring too much of themselves" by wearing "questionable attire." So how much is too much? What kind of attire is questionable? Sometimes Christians struggle with the answers to these questions. God tells us that we must dress "*with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly*" (1 Timothy 2:9). So what types of clothing are not proper, modest, and discreet? Let's consider some examples decided upon by administrators for teachers.

"In some districts, teachers can get dressed down for wearing skimpy tops, short skirts,...Spandex, or...shirts supported by spaghetti straps." One district "prohibits sexually provocative items. That includes clothing that exposes cleavage, private parts, the midriff or undergarments." In another county, "skirts must reach the knee."

If administrators consider attire such as Spandex, spaghetti straps, skirts above the knee, exposed cleavage, midriff, and undergarments, and similar dress to be baring too much and sexually provocative, then why would any Christians wear such things? If school boards are not pleased with such dress, then do you think that God is? Would He not consider it improper, immodest, and indiscreet?

A school administrator said, "Teachers set the example." Like teachers, as Christians we are to set the example, being a pattern for others to follow (Phil 3:17). Jesus said, "*Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven*" (Matthew 5:16).

One teacher said in response to dress being regulated for teachers, "Because we work with children, and we're trying to relate to them, sometimes we need to have guidelines that say, 'You know folks, here's the line, and you really need to stay on this side of it.'" Christians also need to realize the need for some guidelines, always staying on the safe side. Avoiding clothing that society considers to be inappropriate, such as items mentioned above, is at the least a good place to start.

May we all dress in a way as to never have to be dressed down by God. That is one dressing down we definitely don't want to suffer.

"Faith and Fireworks"

Troy Nicholson

When you read of churches in the Bible, you know what to expect them to be doing. When you read of churches in the newspaper, there is no telling what they may be doing. This past week serves as no exception.

Monday's *Tennessean* (7-4-05) contained an article about "churches unit(ing) for patriotic festivities," including one church that "celebrated America during two patriotic extravaganzas that included musical performances and recognition of servicemen and women as well as an indoor fireworks display...The programs featured dramatizations and impersonations of artists such as Minnie Pearl, Willie Nelson, and Elvis."

Each week our local paper (*The Hendersonville Star News*) contains a "Church Happenings" page, and it regularly reports all kinds of things that are happening with area churches. This week included a concert at which "tickets are \$15, \$20, or \$25 (platinum seating)." Another group has "Story Time" once a month with characters such as Spiderman. One church has a "Cosmic Kids worship service" and "is hosting a Kids Carnival." Another church is holding a consignment sale. One "is currently offering a Summer Enrichment Program" which "consists of art, crafts, cooking experiences, and more." Call one church office and you can get a cookbook for \$15. Finally a church is mentioned having a Vacation Bible School – which was used as a fund raiser for various organizations and concluded with a pie in the face of the director.

Paul told Timothy, "*I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth*" (**1 Timothy 3:15**). The conduct of churches we read of in the New Testament never includes anything like what is mentioned above – unless you include what Paul condemned the Corinthian church for doing in **1 Corinthians 11:17-34**. This is because the church Christ built is to be "the pillar and support of the truth," not the provider and supplier of entertainment and secular services. They assembled to celebrate Christ, not a country. They shared something more powerful than fireworks: the power of the gospel (**Romans 1:16**). "Story time" was about the Savior, not Spiderman.

It is not enough, though, to expose the errors of others in going beyond what Scripture allows. We must make sure that we do not fall short of what Scripture commands.

"Sing for joy to God our strength; shout joyfully to the God of Jacob." –
Psalm 81:1

Family News

Mary Burnett is doing well.

Remember **Quinton Coppage**. He remains about the same.

Nell Ferrell remains at NHC in room # 202 (it is better to send cards and notes of encouragement to her home address and **Elmo** will take them to her). They have finished treating her infection and she is a little better.

Benny Gore, Ame White's brother, used to have cancer but was healed. His recent checkup was good and he has been released for six months!

There is a new report from **Gary Hunt** in the back of the auditorium.

Sandra Hunt has high blood pressure, PMR and foot/ankle problems. Her blood pressure medicine was doubled last month. They are still waiting to see if this will be effective (so far it has not been).

Alvin "John" Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer. He has been taking a once a day chemotherapy pill. This is a fairly new cancer treatment. It is not meant to be a cure, but so far things have gone well.

Remember **Debbie Kelley** who remains at Brandywood in Gallatin. She is ready to leave Brandywood as soon as she finds a place to live.

Mildred Lancaster has a problem with high blood pressure.

Allen Malone is home from Vietnam. However, he will be traveling to preach and teach most of the time he is in the states.

Dorothy Newbold, Ame White's aunt, had knee replacement surgery on Tuesday. She was in ICU. She has improved and is now in a step down unit.

Nancy Read goes to the doctor on Tuesday.

John "Jack" Reiger is improving and feeling better. Some of the medicine he has been taking has been reduced and this has helped.

Remember **Dustin Simpson** who continues to serve in the Navy. He remains in training. Contact him at: 91 Quevic Drive; Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Remember **Georgia Taylor**. She may be a little better but is mostly the same.

Joyce Werner has very high blood pressure and many other health problems.

Ame White and her doctors have reached the conclusion that there is nothing more they can do to help control her pain. Hope for better medicine someday.

Robert Wray is about the same (he still has dizzy spells).

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Fran Pickens** (here today but then in FL for a while); **Joyce Werner**

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).