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The Family Friend

A collection of articles and quotes to aid your family in daily living.

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Views From The Pews by Steve Higginbotham

It goes without saying that times sure have changed. I for one, don't lament that. I am glad to be the beneficiary of many of those changes. However, not all changes have been for the better.

One of the changes that I do lament is the overall downgrade with reference to morality, reverence, and modesty. We now live in a time when young women wear clothing in public that is more suitable for the privacy of their bedroom. As if this weren't bad enough, these young women even wear this type clothing to worship services.

One of the problems I think we have is that we have forgotten the purpose of clothing. Clothing was intended to be worn to "cover" our bodies and to "hide" our nakedness. Today, many wear clothing to "expose" their bodies, and to tantalize and excite the imagination.

It has become a weekly practice for me to be shocked

by the dress of some who walk into the church building to worship God. I go home asking myself, "Where is their sense of shame?" and "How could their parents allow them to dress that way?"

While repeatedly seeing such a disregard for modesty is discouraging, allow me to share an encouraging story with you. Yesterday, a few minutes before our worship service started, a teenage young man moved from one end of the pew to the other. After moving, he ended up sitting directly behind me. So I turned around and said, "Hey, (blank) why did you move down on this end?" His response was, "Are you kidding? There's no way I could ever worship God sitting by the girls down there. Did you see how they were dressed? I couldn't possibly stay there and keep my mind on spiritual things."

Let me tell you, I haven't been that proud of a young man in a long time. What an expression of spiritual maturity! And what a sad commentary on the way our teenage girls were dressed.

Friends it's time we speak up

for this truth, like we would any other truth. Modesty is as much a biblical issue as baptism or worship. Would we idly sit by in our churches and watch as God's truth on baptism or worship was hijacked or discarded? Surely not. Then why would we idly sit back in our churches and witness God's truth on modesty being ignored. Preachers need to lovingly speak the truth on this subject, and call people to accept the high and holy calling of Jesus.

Allow me to close by asking a question...When is the last time you preached, or heard your preacher speak, on the subject of modesty?

Renew Your Mind By Brad Harrub, Ph.D

Some conversations stay with us for only a few fleeting moments. Others we find etched in our memories for years to come. Oftentimes those conversations that stick with us contain one of two items: (1) either they were so pleasant and so uplifting that we find ourselves replaying them in order to experience that pleasurable feeling once again; or (2) they were so shocking or hurtful that

we find it hard to let the memory go. I want to share with you a conversation from this second category.

A friend of ours is a faithful preacher's wife. During a busy week at their local congregation she found herself volunteering to take the smaller children to her house in order to give the moms a break to finish some art projects. After all, everyone at the congregation had been working hard all week to prepare for an upcoming event. One of the children she took home was a beautiful two-year old girl. Like most two year olds, this one made a sport out of eating and playing, and the preacher's wife quickly realized that within minutes of being at her home, the little girl's clothes were filthy. Having taken care of children in the past, she went to her storage closet and found a cute little dress that just fit the two year old. The dress was yellow, and resembled a "Little House on the Prairie" dress from days gone by. Several hours later the girl's mom came and picked her up-and the preacher's wife completely forgot the entire incident . . . until the next day.

The next morning the mother of the two-year old asked the preacher's wife where she had found that dress. Thinking that she was complimenting her for having a cute "back-up" dress, the preacher's wife smiled and revealed that she had often bought clothes on sale at dis-

count stores to have "just in case." The mother said: "*Oh. I kind of suspected that's where it came from.*" The preacher's wife quickly realized her initial comprehension of the situation had been wrong. The little girl's mother had not been pleased with the dress. Rather she was belittling the clothes that her daughter was wearing when she picked her up. And that's when it happened-the statement that would remain with her for years to come. The two-year old's mother continued: "***I just can't shop at those stores. Those clothes don't show off her girlish figure.***"

Girlish figure?? THE CHILD WAS ONLY TWO YEARS OLD! Is it any wonder that we have such a problem with modesty today, when parents are leading the way in dressing their children to be "in style" rather than immodest. Christian fathers (and mothers) allow me to encourage you to spend a few minutes studying the following passages with your children: 1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:3-4; Matthew 5:27-28; Titus 2:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:22; Genesis 9:21-27; Romans 1:28-32. The time has come for us to remind ourselves and our children our responsibilities toward God: "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind . . .*"

[Brad Harrub is an apologist who works full-time with Focus Press-www.focuspress.org]

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Why An Issue On Modesty?

Some readers may be thinking, "*Why would you focus an entire issue of TFF on 'modesty?'*" My answer is, "*Because we are in a culture that is inundated with immodesty!*" Not surprisingly, Hollywood is leading the way in near-nudity for public appearances. However, one only has to go to a shopping mall to have one's eyes bombarded with over-exposed flesh. And, as the two previous articles attest, the assemblies and activities of the church are not exempt from this trend. Immodesty is quickly becoming the norm for many people, including Christians.

As I send this issue forth, I ask you to prayerfully consider the following passages and reexamine the fashions and habits of dress in your household. If your practice does not align with God's Word, please change (your attitude, then your clothes). —**Lance Cordle**

"As a ring of gold in a swine's snout so is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion." (**Proverbs 11:22**)

"And do not be conformed to this world..." (**Romans 12:2**)

"Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly..." (**1 Timothy 2:9**)