

The Oologah Informer

April 28th, 2013

Don't be weird, be different
Brad Harrub

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

Announcements:

Chris Nelson

AM Sermon:

Not as fools (Eph 5:15-17)

PM Sermon:

The Corrupt sons of Eli
(1 Sam 2:12-17)

Sunday AM Bible Class:

The Book of Job – D. Jackson
(Job 1:10ff)

Wednesday Bible Class:

The Christian Do's – Swearingen

Having looked into the tearful eyes of parents whose children have abandoned the Faith, I have learned there are a million miles between our children “going through the motions” in reference to their spiritual lives versus our children possessing hearts that dictate their actions. In this column, I plan to share with you what I hope to instill in the hearts of my own children and those whom I love.

It's an epidemic that affects almost every congregation in the United States—immodesty. Clothing that was once reserved for immoral individuals is now considered “in style.” Simply put—skin is in. Any clothing that isn't revealing skin is often so tight-fitting that one can easily spot moles or scars beneath the clothes. Sadly, many Christians have embraced this pagan practice and can see nothing wrong with imitating the world. In all of my years of teaching, this topic elicits more emotion from youth and their parents, as individuals seek to justify their clothing because they “can't find anything in the stores” or “my child has a weird body type.” And so week after week our children march into worship looking no different from the world, and looking as though they were streetwalkers from the 1970s. It would be easy to get upset at these young people—however, it is the parents who most often purchase the clothes. And a quick scan around the auditorium reveals that some parents are trying their best to mimic the latest styles as well.

Imagine the scenario of watching a man serving the Lord's Supper, only to see him return to the front and place the bread plate on the table after only serving half of the auditorium. How would it feel to know the man stopped serving the Lord's Supper because he could not, in good conscience, continue looking up and down the aisle at people who were sitting in immodest clothing revealing far too much as he stood at the end of the row. There is no excuse for what is happening in our worship assemblies, and there is no excuse for elders and preachers not rebuking parents (and teens) for immodesty.

Here's what I intend on teaching my children about immodesty.

Styles come and go. You may never experience wide collars or bell-bottom pants, but rest assured certain things will be “in style” in your life that the media wants you to embrace. There will be strong pressure to conform to the latest fads. But remember, it's just a fad. Sadly, many of your friends will find their self-worth in their clothes (brand name or style). I pray that we rear you to be more confident than that. Your self-worth is in the knowledge that you were bought with the blood of Jesus Christ!

Clothing began in the Garden of Eden. After eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves (Genesis 3:7). It is noteworthy to notice that after God pronounced His punishment on their sin, He further clothed them with tunics of skin (Genesis 3:21). From that point on, man has covered himself in the sight of others and in the sight of God. Clothing has been a part of life since those days in the Garden.

Jesus reminded us not to worry about clothes (Matthew 6:28-30), and as such, your mom and I don't put a huge emphasis on clothing. Yes, we want them to be clean. And yes, we'd prefer they fit—even though that is getting harder as growth spurts outpace your clothing sizes. But in your closet you will find some “outdated” outfits that still have lots of wear in them—and even some hand-me-downs that a sibling or friend once wore. That doesn't change who you are. Modern styles change every season. The primary reason for these frequent changes is to drive sales up in the clothing market. Christians should recognize a problem with this constantly changing industry. God does not change (Malachi 3:6), and neither does His view on modesty. **Tight, low-cut, or revealing clothing is never “in style” in the sight of God.** Furthermore, just because you see another Christian wearing something does not necessarily mean it is appropriate. Christians are admonished to adorn themselves modestly (1 Timothy 2:9-10) and that beauty should not come from outward adornment (1 Peter 3:3-4). When selecting clothes I hope that you will select something that is glorifying to God and that does not draw undue attention. Our clothing should not cause anyone to lust (see Matthew 5:27-28).

Your mom and I will not always be around to select or purchase (thankfully!) your clothes. It is my prayer that when you select something, you will remember Whose you are and Who you represent. Sure, you can dress like the world and blend in, but you are called to be different (Romans 12:1-2). That doesn't mean weird—but different. In a world determined to reveal skin, it shouldn't be hard to adopt a modest style that help demonstrates your Christian character. I assure you that wise clothing choices will earn you respect in the eyes of faithful men and women. Don't worry about the look and label on the outside. **Worry about your look and label on the inside!**

Love, Dad

Preacher's Note:

*Modesty knows no age. Toddler or mature in age modesty is always in style with God.
R.E.*

Announcements

Youth Devo

Youth Devo Today @ 2p.m. Eric Bond from Chouteau Hills will be our speaker this month. Drinks and snacks are needed for this event.

VBS

There will be a VBS meeting Sunday after evening services.

Gospel Meeting @ 29th & Yale

There will be a gospel meeting at 29th & Yale from May 9th-12th. Phil Sanders (from “In SEARCH of the Lord's Way TV show) will be the speaker.

Family & Marriage Seminar

It's time to start inviting people to our upcoming Family and Marriage Seminar. The Seminar is scheduled for May 17-19.

Upcoming Newspaper Articles

Collinsville News article – will be in Wednesday May 1st issue.
Claremore Progress article – this week (Maybe Friday)

Men's Meeting

The next Men's meeting is May 5th after evening services. Let Doyle know if you have anything you want to add to the agenda to discuss.

Thanks to God!

We are thankful to God to hear that Allen Cash had his 3 year checkup and is still cancer free.

Recent Prayer Requests

Shirley Lusk – Sister of Darla, had an infection and is now under hospice care.

Doretha Claxton - is under hospice care

Shayla Jackson – is recovering from a bicycle accident.

Kenny (Patti Payne's husband) – is having heart problems.

Please keep the following in the prayers.

Ed & Barbara Coats

Ruth Corbett

Allen & Joyce Cash

Mary Ann Haugh

Emma and Ruth (Darla Smith's sister)

John Babb

Jerry Watson – is responding well to his treatments.

Kennedy Cox

William Claxton's family and friends (many are in need of prayers)