



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No.18, May 5 , 2015 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

WINNING THE BATTLE OVER 'THE MOTHER' IDOL!

To covet means to have a fixed desire upon some object or person. In the negative usage, it speaks of a person with an insatiable desire to get or gain for selfish pleasure— **a selfish fixed desire rules over all reasoning!**

Jesus warns us *"To take heed, and beware of covetousness..."* (Luke 12:15)

God through Paul says, *"Mortify... covetousness, which is idolatry."* (Col. 3:5)

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, we learn that the COVETOUS shall not inherit the kingdom of God!

In fact, in Ephesians 5:5, we learn that **NO COVETOUS PERSON HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**

When the MOTHER IDOL of Covetousness is reigning in our hearts we think and imagine in terms of **me/my/and mine**. Something or someone other than Almighty God is in first place.

For example, we may be covetously **holding on to** ('with a fixed desire') and **bowing down to** the idol of being '**IN STYLE**' by the world's standards of style.

CASE IN POINT:

I commend Southside ladies and girls for their modesty. HOWEVER, OVER THE YEARS, from time to time a few have come to church services dressed in *harlot's attire!* Yes, you read that correctly! In fact, a few years back a visitor pulled me aside after a church service and said,

"The way that girl is dressed is obscene!" ... I had to agree!

BLUNT QUESTION: Do any of you ladies or your female children/youth dress in public in such a way that obviously displays sensuous sexuality, exposing breasts and/or upper legs— not just at Church services, but anywhere out in public?

History lesson: In the 1960s, Mary Quant introduced *the mini skirt to the world.* *She designed it, she said, to announce that she was ready to go to bed with a man, night or day!*

IF YOU OR IF YOU ALLOW YOUR CHILDREN TO DRESS IMMODESTLY— that's the message you/they are sending forth!

MARK THIS DOWN: HEAVEN BOUND DISCIPLES OF JESUS, MALE OR FEMALE, WILL WANT TO WEAR MODEST APPAREL! But, just what IS 'modest apparel?'

1. YOU dress to display a radiant face with eyes that reflect a clear conscience.
2. YOU dress to please Jesus.
3. Unlike Cain, YOU are YOUR brother's/sister's keeper.
4. YOU DO NOT dress in a way to sexually tempt another.

Yes, it is true that clothes are on the OUTSIDE. However, by the

**STYLE of clothes we choose, we often reveal WHO HAS OUR HEARTS!
We reveal WHO WE DESIRE TO PLEASE!**

DADS AND MOMS: It is your responsibility before God to train up your children to be as God clearly requires in His Holy Word— **MODEST IN APPAREL!**

Many years ago, Charles Spurgeon said that, **“London obtains her fashions from Paris, and Paris gets her fashions from hell!”** As Christians, we are exhorted to present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy, well pleasing unto God; and we are not to be conformed or **fashioned according to this world!** (*Romans 12:1-2*)

MORE GUIDANCE FROM GOD’S WORD:

God’s Word calls us to maintain **femininity and masculinity**— there is to be distinctiveness between male and female. **Without question one of the evidences of a sodomite culture is gender-blender clothing.** (*Deuteronomy 22:5*)

In First Timothy 2:9, God breathes out His holy will through the Apostle Paul to say, **“...that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety [with modesty or reverence and self-restraint]...”**

MODEST: The Greek word is *kosmios*. It means orderly, becoming, seemly, decent, proper.

APPAREL: The Greek word is *katastole*. It means “to send or let down, to lower”-Vines; “long robe”- Young’s.

SHAMEFACEDNESS is translated in Hebrews 12:28, 29, as “reverence.” The Greek word is *aidos*.

In Hebrews 12, we are being instructed to serve God with **reverence** (shamefacedness) because He is a consuming fire. Thayer’s Greek Lexicon helps us to see that **aidos** (shamefacedness/reverence) points

toward **having regard for others!**

THUS, TO DRESS IN MODEST APPAREL IS TO DRESS WITH AN AWARENESS OF AND CARE FOR HOW OTHERS WILL BE AFFECTED BY WHAT WE WEAR!

Elizabeth Handford repored that the ushers of a particular church once came to their pastor and asked him **to arrange some way they could receive the tithes and offerings on Sunday morning without having to look down at so much exposed flesh.**

Mrs. Handford also stated, **“I sometimes blush for my sons...”**

ANOTHER SAD and SINFUL TRAGEDY: ‘Christian’ weddings commonly feature brides and bridesmaids who are **dressed sexually suggestive—dressed in harlot’s attire!**

Greek scholar, Richard Trench, says that **a sense of modesty and reverence precedes and prevents a shameful act.** In other words, a woman’s or a teenage girl’s modesty will prevent them from COVETOUSNESS, FROM SELFISH DISREGARD OF OTHERS, as well as preventing them from having **the obvious appearance of a harlot!**

And yes, modest apparel may also keep many a lad and man from undue temptations to lust. (As stated earlier, Mary Quant designed the miniskirt, she said, “to announce that she was ready to go to bed with a man anytime, night or day.”

REGARDLESS: NO lad or man must ever excuse lust or sexual crime on the way any female dresses. At the same time, the **Atlanta Journal**, March 3, 1970, reported on a survey of top law enforcement officials in fifty states. Of those responding to the survey, **90% believed girls who wear miniskirts risk increased danger of rape attack.**

One responder said, **“Skirts which allow or give promise of a possible striptease view of intimate areas when seated** may put the wearer in a questionable light, sometimes making her the target of

immoral advances, **or** comment, **or even** a sex crime.” AGAIN: Be that as it may— **NO lad or man must ever excuse lust or sexual crime on the way any female dresses.**

The Bible often uses the phrase “*the secret parts*” (Deut. 25:11; 1 Sam 5:9; Isa. 3:17) to describe the sex organs. It is not that these body parts are shameful; it is that they are not to be exposed.

There is an unusual holiness and sacredness involved, to the degree that God gives an entire chapter of the Bible giving SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS on the subject of nakedness! (*Leviticus 18:1-30*)

Why does God do this? **Because, as He says, “I AM the LORD your GOD!”**

Reginald Wallis reports that a heathen convert was once asked this question, **‘What is the first thing you do after becoming a Christian?’**

The reply was, ‘We put on more clothes.’

Indeed, when the naked demoniac savingly encountered Jesus Christ—the local people **came to Jesus and they saw him that was possessed with the legion of demons sitting, and CLOTHED, and in his right mind;...**” (*Mark 5:15*)

MAKE NO MISTAKE: WHERE THERE IS A LACK OF MODESTY IN DRESS, THERE WILL BE DEMONIC FORCES AT WORK.

The world uses dress and fashion to project its demonic spirit of greed, and lust, and selfishness, and pride.

As Christians, even by our dress, we can tell the world about Jesus! Our dress may be the first sermon they see!

HERE ARE SOME POSITIVE BASICS WHEN IT COMES TO DRESS:

1. Dress to commend the Gospel— display wholesomeness, purity, and cleanliness.

2. Never dress in public in a way that is sexually suggestive.

3. DRESS TO DISPLAY JESUS THROUGH YOUR LIFE! *Christian women and young women should “dress modestly, with decency and propriety... appropriate for women who profess to worship God.” (1 Tim 2:9, NIV)* Again, dress should not stir up attention to one’s body, to one’s sexuality, or to one’s wealth...

4. DRESS TO DRAMATIZE THE INNER YOU! Beware of the spirit of pride coming forth from dress! (See God’s warnings in Isaiah 3:16-24)

Remember, as Christians, above all else we want to **adorn (be a living testimonial!) the doctrine of God our Savior IN ALL THINGS!** (Titus 2:10)

5. DRESS TO PLEASE JESUS! *“And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem (God’s People) coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”* (Rev. 21:2)

6. Dress each day in the kind of clothes you would be happy to be wearing if you were to meet Jesus face to face... at home... at the mall... at the beach... at church services... at work... at school or where ever!

FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN— as I look in the mirror, I must remind myself:

My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. I belong to God. He purchased me at the cost of His Son at Calvary. I AM NOT MY OWN. I AM TO GLORIFY GOD IN MY BODY AND IN MY SPIRIT. I am not to be conformed or fashioned to the world! (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom 12:1-2)

THE IDOL OF COVETOUSNESS has many expressions in addition to immodesty! REMEMBER:

To covet means to have a fixed desire upon some object or person. In the negative usage, it speaks of a person with an insatiable desire to get or gain for selfish pleasure— **a selfish fixed desire rules over all reasoning! Jesus warns us** “*To take heed, and beware of covetousness...*” (Luke 12:15) **God through Paul says,** “*Mortify... covetousness, which is idolatry.*” (Col. 3:5) **In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11,** we learn that the COVETOUS shall not inherit the kingdom of God! In fact, in Ephesians 5:5, we learn that **NO COVETOUS PERSON HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD!** **When the MOTHER IDOL of Covetousness** is reigning in our hearts we think and imagine AND PLAN in terms of **me/my/and mine.** Something or someone other than Almighty God is in first place. MANY OF US have very weak, poor, bad track record in giving unto the LORD consistent **T I M E— TIME** daily in the Word and prayer; **TIME** for ministry; **TIME** in gathering for weekly CONGREGATIONAL services. **WE GIVE TIME ONLY IF... nothing else is in the way. We will NEVER win over the MOTHER IDOL of covetousness until or unless we believe and embrace this simple word from JESUS: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness...!”**

REMEMBER: If in fact I am a lifestyle slave to **THE GREAT MOTHER IDOL of covetousness—** that means that I am yet dead in my sins and one heartbeat away from an eternity in hell.

Great Grace to all! / James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Questions call Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

**** WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM; Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room ****

NOTE: Jody Allen is ministering to **Children**, during Prayer Service.

WEDNESDAY YOUTH MEETING, 6:30pm led by Chris and Rachel Beth Estep.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— RESUMES, June 4, 11:00am, The Life of David! Cindy Bell, teaching. {Meet in Ladies Sunday School Room: Come in FRONT doors of the church auditorium or the SIDE door at the top of the IRON STEPS!}

* **EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!** {Study in 1 Thessalonians}... Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SPECIAL NOTES FOR SUNDAY, MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 10:

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service

NO noon meal or afternoon service— as many folks normally have special FAMILY plans for Mother's day.

MOTHER'S DAY! We encourage HONORING MOTHERS with GIDEON BIBLES given in APPRECIATION of them AND/OR IN MEMORY of....

Sunday May 17—

9:30am- Sunday School; 10:45am- Worship Service and THE LORD'S SUPPER.

No Noon meal or afternoon service.

HOME GROUPS IN THE EVENING.

Sunday May 24— 9:30am- Sunday School; **10:45am-** Worship Service; **NOON-** Fellowship, Covered-dish meal; **1:00pm-** Early Afternoon Service

Sunday May 31—

9:30am- Sunday School;

10:45am- Worship Service; No Noon meal or afternoon service.

CHURCH-WIDE PRAISE/SINGING/TESTIMONY MEETING AT 6:00PM

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SUMMER CAMP ☐ JULY 6-10 // PRAY and PLAN!

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SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL! Call— 616-452-5951

PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS VITAL MINISTRY!