

Strange

By Terry W. Benton

The world *should* think us strange. After all, our principles have changed from theirs to a whole different set of values and guiding principles. **1 Peter 4:3-5** - For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

We changed from a set of values guided by selfish lusts and desires, worldly aims, and pride to a relationship with a Holy God that matters more now to us than anything else. Whereas we “fit in” before, we cannot enjoy the profanity, the drinking, the immodesty and lasciviousness that guided and controlled our hearts before. Now we “fit in” with holy people, but no longer fit in with worldly people.

We must not fear being different and even being rejected as “strange” to worldly people. Woe to us if all men speak well of us. If we can fit in with everyone we are able to do what Jesus could not do.

Jesus was misunderstood. He was strange by other people’s standards. We would rather be strange to people than strange to God and His will. The Early Church was misunderstood.

They did not set on a mission to be despised and rejected, but when their own internal values changed so drastically to “proving what is acceptable to the Lord” instead of “conforming to the world” (**Rom.12:1-3**) they became “strange” to former friends..

Previously we were estranged from Christ and had nothing in common with His holiness. Now, our sense of holiness has changed our sense of modesty and dress, our vocabulary and choice of words, our places of interest, our activities and behavior is in a growing process. Now those we once had so much in common with are thinking us strange that we do not run with them, drink with them, dance with them, talk like them, or think like them. We are strange to our old way of living, thinking, dressing, talking, but we love the new things we have come to know and enjoy in Christ. Everything is new, different, and better(**2 Cor.5:17**) Now we think it strange that we were so blind for so long, and wish others could have their eyes opened by the gospel. Don’t be afraid or ashamed of being strange to the world. We should be ashamed if we are not.



Classes This Week					
Sunday 5:15 PM Kid’s Class at the Building	Sunday After Services College Devo and Singing at Seth Humphries’. Josh Carter teaching.	Monday 7:30 PM Evangelism Class with Ryan Hasty in college classroom	Tuesday 8 PM Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2225	Thursday 10 AM Ladies Class at Paula Davis’ on “Great Women of the Bible”	Thursday 7 PM Men’s Class at Walker Davis’

Sick

Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey’s Cousin)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin’s Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey’s dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz’s Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd’s Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad’s Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Donna Pridmore (Erin Miller’s Mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones’ Mother)	Mark Dean (Father of Logan Dean)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Jon Jon Henderson (Suzanne Stagner’s cousin)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon’s brother)	Bob Cannon (Friend of Holly Law)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley’s Father)	Eli Williams	Emily Stallings (Anna’s sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert’s)
Lisa Carter (Josh and Luke Carter’s mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin’s Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Joe Burt (Scott Perkin’s grandfather)

September Birthdays

- 2 - Denise Davis
- 3 - Trenton Anderson
- 4 - Logan Dean
- 4 - Kevin Anderson
- 10 - BJ Winslett
- 10 - Josh Carter
- 10 - Matthew Sullivan
- 10 - Eleanor Weldon
- 10 - Keeley Porter
- 11 - Sheryl Fowler
- 12 - Jared Johnson
- 13 - Ashley Winland
- 14 - Patsy Ogle
- 16 - Brittany Bagents
- 17 - Laura Weldon
- 19 - Kayti Persall
- 21 - Sarah Chandler
- 24 - Wade Winslett
- 26 - Ali Ingram

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Fallon Hartsell, Brittany Bagent and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton and also Matthew Cavender, a new student to be with us in January, in your prayers as both are deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - Please consider having your picture taken in the Foyer after services. This will be the last opportunity before the directory is made.
- ☒ - Jim Bell lost his brother, Robert Bell, yesterday.
- ☒ - Cliff Parsons will be away for 1 month in LA.
- ☒ - Remember Anna Jean Selsvik’s grandmother and uncle in your prayers as they are battling cancer.
- ☒ - We encourage our members to park on the grass and to move up front to provide seating for our visitors.
- ☒ - Audio is immediately uploaded to www.auchurch.com. Also CDs are in foyer after each service.

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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Modesty

It's nothing to be ashamed of

Thoughts to Ponder

“In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”

(1 Timothy 2:9-10)

Elders
Walker Davis
(334) 703-0050
Larry Rouse
(334) 734-2133

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
E-Mail:
larryrouse@aubeacon.com
Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Does God Care What I Wear?

By Larry Rouse

It is an exciting time in this part of the country as football season begins. The large crowds gathered for a game reminds us of the unique culture in this part of the country. I still have memories of my father taking me to games and explaining what was taking place on the field. These family memories and school ties run deep with many and can be a source of clean entertainment.

As with any large gathering in our culture, the values of that culture will be displayed. On a warm day the world has no standards concerning clothing, alcohol and the use of their tongues. How should a Christian react to the standards of the world when the world scoffs at those who dare try to live a standard that differs from theirs? “For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles -- when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*.” (**1 Peter 4:3-4**)

Christians and the Dress of our Culture

Many young are naive concerning the message that their attire communicates in this culture. There are some truths that transcend culture. One

Real leaders, both in the church and in the home, must be willing to consistently teach and lovingly communicate what God’s word teaches about modesty. I know that our young ladies are teachable and simply need the leadership and instruction to know better.

such universal truth is that God made woman’s body to be sexually attractive to men. God has also ordained that the fulfillment of that attraction be only fulfilled in marriage. “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” (**Hebrews 13:4**)

The culture of this country has changed radically in my short lifetime. On a college campus it is common for students to openly live together with no remorse concerning the loss of sexual purity. It is no surprise then to see a universal approval to young women that display their bodies by low-cut tops, short skirts and tight revealing clothing. In the modern fashion world,

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in popular characters played on TV and in the cheerleaders on the field the world boldly proclaims that there are no standards! It is also common to see some Christians conform to fit in with the dress of the crowd.

Brethren, this is a battle that we cannot afford to lose by being silent. What does God's word teach us concerning alack of clothing in public settings?

The Bible Condemns Public Nakedness

It is assumed in the Bible that public nakedness is a shame. The image of public nakedness is used in the Bible to convey to the readers a need for shame in other areas. The arrogance and self-sufficiency of the Laodiceans blinded them to their real condition before God. When the Lord showed them what they really looked like spiritually they found themselves in need of correction, illustrated by correcting nakedness with proper clothing.

"Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' -- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, **and naked** -- 'I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that **you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness** may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.'" (Revelation 3:17-18)

In the Old Testament there are numerous examples showing that nakedness is not just complete nudity but also a lack of clothing. In the case of Adam and Eve God replaced their "fig leaf" coverings (the equivalent of men's swimming trunks) with tunics (garments that covered from the shoulders to the knees) because they needed adequate clothing to cover their nakedness. (Gen 3:7, 10-11, 21)

Later we see the consistency of instruction when God gave told the priests to have clothing to cover the waste to the thighs so that their nakedness would be covered. "And you shall make for them linen trousers to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from *the waist to the thighs*." (Exodus 28:42)

There is a General Lack of Teaching on Modesty

I am finding that our young Christian women struggle in understanding what their dress communicates. While modesty applies both to men

and women, it is women who often fail to see how their dress impacts a man. This is why you see instruction directed to women in the area of clothing. "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." (1 Timothy 2:9-10 KJV)

I commonly see young ladies dressing in public events in revealing clothes that communicate a *very understandable message* to men that these young Christians would never want others to think. When I see this, I know that there has been a failure in the home and in local churches to teach on these things. As a father God has placed me in a position of leadership and I must lead my home. Both my wife and my daughter do not see women's clothing in the same way I do. Here is where consistent instruction and practice will make a world of difference with my home!

Real leaders, both in the church and in the home, must be willing to consistently teach and lovingly communicate what God's word teaches about modesty. I know that our young ladies are teachable and simply need the leadership and instruction to know better.

Please be willing to ask older, spiritual Christians about these things. It is my prayer that this article might cause us to more freely talk with other Christians about this sensitive issue of what we wear.

Do not Let Fear Silence Us

We will never win the battle against the world by being silent so as to not offend another. The current practice of our "non-traditional" preachers is for them to simply wave their hands and call these issues "cultural" and then refuse to lift a finger to teach our young. A genuine faith is not afraid to stand against the current culture and boldly teach God's will that applies to every facet of our lives. "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:3-5)



Destructive Complexes

By Don Martin

Inferiority Complex

I have personally known capable individuals who wasted their ability and potential because they felt they could not perform the task at hand. They were constantly belittling and castigating themselves. They actually believed that they had no worth and value. The person who suffers from what we call an inferiority complex believes he does not know enough to teach others, he is not good enough to associate with other Christians or he cannot encourage the weak because he feels he is weaker.

This type of thinking involves and results in fear which can cause one to lose one's soul. The one talent man said, "I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth . . ." (Matt. 25:25, all emphasis throughout mine, DM). John wrote, "but the fearful . . . shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone . . ." (Rev. 21:8). Beloved, you are not "inferior" to any; you too were created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26)!

Narcissus Complex

In Greek mythology, Narcissus was a youth who one day saw his reflection in a pool of water. Upon seeing his reflection he fell in love with it and suffered because it was unattainable. Hence, a Narcissus complex is excessive self love.

Paul in writing of the last days stated, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves . . ." (2 Tim. 3:2). Presently, many aliens are not leaving the world because of self-love; they will not deny self (Lk. 9:23). Confessedly, some members of Christ's body are so in love with themselves that they are puffed up and living simply to satisfy their own desires (1 Cor. 10:31-33).

Anxiety Complex

Doctors are informing us that anxiety contributes to, everything from tooth decay to cardiovascular disorders. Worry drains us and can kill us physically and spiritually. Yet, we go on worrying over every little thing. Some worry so much that they have developed an "anxiety complex." Notwithstanding, Jesus taught, "Take therefore no thought (do not worry) for the morrow . . ." (Matt. 6:34). Paul exhorted, "In nothing be anxious: but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6, ASV).

Conclusion

Concerned reader, we must watch and be aware of our thinking and mental status because, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he," (Prov. 23:7). Many fail to become Christians and some who are Christians are fruitless and unproductive because of the destructive complexes herein set forth.

