

# Bible Basics: Creeds of Men and the Word of God

It seems that from time immemorial men have substituted their own creed for the word of the living God. To the scribes and Pharisees Jesus said, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" (**Matt. 15:3**). Again he said, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (**Matt. 15:9**). People who think they have the right to teach anything they wish religiously can, of course, see no wrong in it; but people committed to the fact that only God can guide men religiously see much wrong in it.

The old Philadelphia Confession of Faith, a creed made by men to guide men in religious matters, says, "This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, nor from any power or agency in the creature co-working with his special grace; the creature being wholly passive therein, being dead in sins and trespasses, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it, and that by no less power than that which raised up Christ from the dead." There are many errors in this man-made creed, but let us

By Earl Robertson

examine just one at this time: the contention that the sinner is wholly passive in conversion. This old creed is yet preached by men who ought to know better. The matter of being "passive" is the opposite of "active." The creed contends man can do nothing in being converted; that should he try, he nullifies the grace of God. Jesus say, "he that doeth the will of my father" (**Matt. 7:21**), is the one who enters heaven. Being "wholly passive" does not permit this action demanded by Jesus! Peter affirmed on Pentecost that remission of sins is predicated upon repentance and baptism. (**Acts 2:38**.) The verb "repent" translates is active and commanding. No one can obey this divine command without action; and without this action, there is no remission of sins! But with this action one is no longer passive; therefore, either Peter is right and the human creed wrong, or the human creed is right and the apostle Peter is wrong. Which do you believe?

Faith comes by hearing the word of God (**Rom. 10:17; Eph. 1:13**), not a creed authored by mere men. Why not accept the word of God and reject the creeds of men?



### Classes This Week

<b>Sun 5:15 PM</b> Kids Class at Building	<b>Sun After Services</b> College Devo and Singing at the Rouse's	<b>Monday 7 PM</b> Men's Class at Walker Davis'	<b>Tuesday 7 PM</b> Bible Reading at Hannah Alexander's	<b>Wednesday 12 Noon</b> Ladies Class at Anna Leigh Peek's	<b>Thursday 7 PM</b> Revelation Study at Caleb George's	<b>Sat 6-8 PM</b> 1st-6th Grade Class at TBA	<b>Sat 6:30-8:30 PM</b> 7th-12th Grade Class at the Tam's
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### Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chuck Wade	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Josie Keith (Friend of Heath Fowler)	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Easton Alexander (Phillip Box's cousin's baby)	Jerry Sandlin (Megan Lee's Grandfather)
Richard Call Seth Humphrey's Uncle	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Mary Smith (Nathan Smith's Grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Dale Herd (William Herd's brother)	Larry Alexander (Friend of Phillip Box)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Stacey Harrell (Marcus Harrell's Dad)	Ann Robinson (Sharon Bailey's Mom)	Mike Reed (Friend of Long's)

### September Birthdays

- 1 - Ryan Seymore
- 2 - Denise Davis
- 3 - Trenton Anderson
- 4 - Kevin Anderson
- 10 - BJ Winslett
- 10 - Matthew Sullivan
- 10 - Joshua Carter
- 10 - Keeley Porter
- 10 - Eleanor Weldon
- 11 - Sheryl Fowler
- 12 - Jared Johnson
- 12 - Heather Bethea
- 14 - Patsy Ogle
- 17 - Laura Weldon
- 19 - Kayti Persall
- 21 - Sarah Chandler
- 24 - Wade Winslett

### News and Notes

- Let us remember Matthew Johnson, David Golden and Tim Morton in our prayers as they are deployed overseas.
- We are so thankful to have such a large number of students to identify with the church here!
- Jared Johnson had his gall bladder removed on Friday.
- Rusty Weldon is being treated for a kidney stone.
- The membership committee will meet after services with those who have requested to become members.
- The next student devotional will tonight!

# The Auburn Beacon



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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## Does God Care What I Wear?

By Larry Rouse



### Thoughts to Ponder

Modesty is not only an ornament, but also a guard to virtue

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 communi-

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.

cates in this culture. There are some truths that transcend culture. One 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

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Do You Have a Bible Question?  
Call (334) 734-2133 or  
E-mail:  
LarryRouse@aubeacon.com



### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse  
Evangelist and Editor

Check Us Out On the Internet: [www.aubeacon.com](http://www.aubeacon.com)

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and tight revealing clothing. In the modern fashion world, 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)



# Bible Authority and Church Music

By W. Frank Walton

The religion of God for man's faith is a revealed religion (Rom 10:17). We don't know what God wants unless He tells us (Rom 11:35). The apostles were commanded by Christ to teach "all" He commanded (Matt 28:20) and "abide in" His word (Jn 8:31f). False religious standards are those that subjectively supplant, abuse, transgress, or neglect the Word of God (2 Pet 3:16). In the religion of Christ, we are forbidden to "exceed what is written" (1 Cor 4:6).

Let's examine a common sense outline to determine the authority for any particular religious practice. In the chart below, note: (1) Specifics, or a thing that is specified by command, example or necessary inference from God's word or even in any secular example, (2) the generic or general category of any specific, (3) things that are not authorized or things forbidden under any specific or generic and (4) authorized expedients (or authorized things that aid execution of thing commanded).

### **SPECIFIC GENERIC UNAUTHORIZED EXPEDIENTS**

<b>Ford</b>	<b>Car</b>	<b>Chevrolet</b>	<b>4 door/red/V-8</b>
<b>Gopher</b>	<b>Wood</b>	<b>Hickory/Pine/Oak</b>	<b>hammer, saw</b>
<b>Sing</b>	<b>All Music</b>	<b>Instrumental</b>	<b>songbook/leader</b>

First, to illustrate, let us notice a secular example. The purchasing officer of a company is instructed to buy the company 20 Ford automobiles. The specific included is Ford. Its generic is an automobile. There is no authority for the purchasing officer to buy 20 Chevrolets, Hondas or Buicks. He is implicitly forbidden to buy anything that is not a Ford because only Fords are specified. Expedients that are authorized as a matter of judgment, which might be 4 door, red color, or V-8 engine, as long as they are Fords.

To illustrate these things more let us notice an Old Testament Bible example: Noah was instructed to build an ark of gopher wood (Gen.6:14). Gopher is the specific involved in

this command from the word of God to Noah. Wood is the generic. There was no authority for Noah to build the ark of pine, hickory or oak, nor is there authority for him to build 2 smaller boats or a larger boat than 300 cubits long. Expedients may have been white or yellow gopher wood; with hammers or saws, so long as Noah used gopher wood. He was minutely obedient to all of God's commands in building the ark (Gen 6:22). His obedient faith is commended in the NT (Heb 11:7). If Noah had used any other wood, it would be unauthorized and he would have been disobedient!

For a NT example, note music in worship is mentioned 9 times (Acts 2:47, 16:25; Col 3:16, Eph 5:19, Rom 15:9,11; Heb 2:12, 13:15, Ja 5:13) - vocal music. The specific involved in regard to music in New Testament worship is vocal music - singing. IF God had commanded the more generic "make music," then any music would be authorized, vocal or instrumental. Yet, singing is specified, so other forms of music have no authority and are thereby forbidden as presumptive and "exceed what is written" (1 Cor 4:6). Authorized expedients are any subordinate expedients that assist the singing - song books, song leader, pitch pipe, or 4 part harmony.

This common sense outline can be used as a guide to determine if anything in the work or worship of the church has specific or generic authority, or an expedient or aid to the authorized work of the church, or if it is outside divine authorization. We should find Bible authority for all we do in the name of religion!

"Whatever you do, in work or deed, do all in the name of the Lord" (Col 3:17). "If any man speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Pet 4:11).

