

Mixed Marriages

Bobby Key, who has preached for the church in Miami, Oklahoma for 20 years (1957-77), has compiled some interesting facts on marriage. We have long stressed the importance of Christians marrying Christians, and this in-formation shows how important it really is.

“143 Christian young people in the Miami congregation have married during the past 20 years. Seventy-nine married non-Christians; of these 57 left the church with 25 being divorced. Twenty-two are still faithful and 14 have converted their mates. Sixty-four married Christians, and of these, 59 are still faithful to the Lord. Two marriages ended in divorce.”

Young people, take another look at these facts, and be impressed with the fact that your chances of being faithful as a Christian, and your chances of making your marriage a successful one, are greatly increased when you marry a Christian. So, look again:

Christians Married to non-Christians

- 79 - Total
- 57 - Left the church
- 22 - Faithful Christians
- 14 - Converted their mates
- 25 - Divorces

Christians Married to Christians

- 64 - Total
- 5 - Left the church
- 59 - Faithful Christians
- 14 - Converted their mates
- 2 - Divorces

These facts speak loudly. In the words of brother Key, “Let us continue to stress the importance of Christians dating and marrying those of like precious faith. It is hard enough to live the Christian life when both husband and wife are trying to serve the Lord; however, it becomes increasingly difficult when one is trying to pull the whole load”.



Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
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)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Yolanda Stewart (Michael Bassie's Sister)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Toni Herd	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Camden, grandson of Steve Pruitt (friend of Greg Lanier)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Ellie Vaughn (Scott and Genna's baby)

July Birthdays

- 3-Nathan Rouse
- 6-Nathan Bradshaw
- 8-David DeFoor
- 11-Chase Winslett
- 11-Madi White
- 11-Hope Walker
- 11-Clay Morris
- 11-Kelsey Gallahar
- 11-Caroline Meadows
- 14-Laurel Jerkins
- 14-Megan Ryan
- 15-Bradley Seymore
- 15-Winston Atnip
- 18-Kerrie Hornback
- 19-Ben Holcomb
- 19-Jay Borden
- 21-Tori Luther
- 25-Betty Bradford
- 25-Yvette Rouse
- 26-Brandon Hester
- 28-Jacob Bradshaw
- 29-Hayden Phillips
- 30-Brittney Arnett

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mother, Nicole Pender!
- ☒ - Please keep the Tam's in your prayers as they are away in China.
- ☒ - Steve Gover, Patsy's brother, had a successful surgery and will have the second surgery on Monday. Please pray for him and for Patsy as she travels to CA to be with him.
- ☒ - Please pray for Abbie Buchanan as she has knee surgery this Wed.
- ☒ - Please remember Audrey Barnett, Joanetta's sister-in-law in prayer as she has surgery on Monday.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for the Mauldin family as Owen continues in hospice care.
- ☒ - Extending sympathy to the family of Patsy Rhodes, relative of Toni Herd, after her death.
- ☒ - Please pray for the family of York Smith in the death of his grandmother, Betty Warran.
- ☒ - The ladies class will be this Thursday. At 7 PM at Joanetta Lauderdale's home on "heaven"
- ☒ - Please remember the family of April Jerkins and Julie Johnson in the recent death of their aunt, Margaret Henderson.
- ☒ - Ray Davis, Walker's dad, has returned home from his surgery and rehab.
- ☒ - Please pray for Bethany Marchman's father, Garry, who is undergoing tests.
- ☒ - Please pray for Holly Law. She is in the hospital and cannot have visitors at this time. The family faces some difficult decisions.

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)

Modesty

It's nothing to be ashamed of

Thoughts to Ponder

..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.. (1 Timothy 2:9-10)

Elders
Walker Davis
(334) 703-0050
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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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

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.

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)



The Perception Is ...

By Connie Adams

All of us need to keep on preaching what we know to be the truth, doing what we know to be right, and living uprightly before God and the world, whether or not the perceptions are changed. In the final analysis, does it really matter what people think of us?

"A good name is better than precious ointment" (Eccl. 7:1). "Only let not your good be evil spoken of" (Rom. 14:16). Timothy was "well reported of by the brethren" (Acts 16:2). Surely, we would rather be held in respect than despised.

But sometimes perceptions are unjust. Ahab's perception of Elijah was that he was the one who "troubleth Israel" (1 Kgs 18: 17). It was really the other way around.

Jesus was perceived by the Jewish rulers as a "blasphemer" who had to be stopped at all cost. For that reason they "took counsel together to put Him to death" (Jn 11:53). Yet Peter said that He "left us an example that we should walk in His steps; Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth" (1 Pt 2:21,22).

Paul said, "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness" (1 Cor. 1:23). The perception of both unbelieving Jews and Greeks was wrong. The truth? "But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God -- is stronger than men" (Vs. 25).

Unbelieving Jews created a false impression about Paul and his companions at Thessalonica. They dragged "certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, 'these that have turned the world upside down are come hither also'" (Acts 17:6). The perception spread. "And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things" (vs. 8). But it was all based on false information. But still, that was the perception.

Image Problems: -- Let's face it, Jesus, the apostles and the early church suffered from an image problem. I guess Demas succumbed to it for he "forsook...having loved this present world" (2 Tim. 4:10). The church of our Lord has often suffered from an image problem. "That's the little bunch who thinks they are the only ones who are right." "Oh, they are the ones who don't believe in music in the church." The perception of many younger people now is that organized religion is hypocritical, repressive, and out of touch with life in the real world. On top of that they are judged to be too judgmental and bigoted.

Solving The Image Problem: -- I don't know that we always can solve it. We cannot compromise the truth

because some who stand for it have been slandered and false perceptions have been created. All of us need to keep on preaching what we know to be the truth, doing what we know to be right, and living uprightly before God and the world, whether or not the perceptions are changed. In the final analysis, does it really matter what people think of us? No, it does not. What matters is what God thinks about us. If my action is right before God, then whatever contrary perceptions may prevail are of no importance. When we begin to sample perceptions, brotherhood

or otherwise, and decide our actions and associations accordingly, then we have sold out our principles for the pottage of human approval and opinion. Is there a price to pay sometimes for acting contrary to the "perception which is out there?" Absolutely. You may have a meeting or two canceled without any explanation. That happened to me twice this year. One was cancelled with no other explanation than "for the health of the church." I don't know if that meant the church was all too sick to attend a meeting or they thought my preaching would make them all sick. Another was cancelled with the explanation "due to circumstances." When I inquired what those "circumstances" were, I received no answer. Do churches have the same right to cancel meetings as to schedule them? Of course they do. But there is such thing as honorable treatment which even people in the world recognize in the realm of business dealings.

Am I going to cut off association with brethren I know to be honorable and who are engaged in activities which are just and right because of some "perception out there"? No sir, I am not. Others may choose whatever course they desire, but it appears to this old country boy that principle and perception are not always on the same page. The measure of a man's character and caliber may well be decided by which one he chooses. "Buy the truth and sell it not" (Prov. 23:23).

