

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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"...Let your beauty not be external—the braiding of hair and wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes—but the inner person of the heart, the lasting beauty of a gentle and tranquil spirit, which is precious in God's sight,"

—1 Peter 3:3,4 (NET)

**Servants during July:**

Songleader: Larry (5), Dwight (12), Stanley (19), Larry (26)

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Larry, Marty, Mike

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (1), Kris (8), Larry (15), Stanley (22), Kris (29)

Area Meetings:

Anderson, 19-22, Kyle Pope

New Hope, 26-29, Kenny Moorner

Oakland, 26-31, Mitchell Dalrymple

Jenning's Chapel, 26-31, Lowell Sallee

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Pretty is as Pretty Does

By Joanne Beckley

All the time I was growing up I wanted to be beautiful. I was impatient to finally be allowed to wear makeup, stylish clothing, and high-heeled shoes. I would go to the mirror—but I would never see the beautiful woman I longed to see... Instead, my father and mother kept talking to me about developing a beautiful heart. If I would do this, then everyone would see beauty in my face. Mother would say, "Pretty is as pretty does." I know she meant that what we **DO** is more important than how we look—but I still kept checking my mirror, anyway.

Even though I kept thinking of that mirror, I also listened to my mother and father. What did they teach me? How to live for Jesus. Simple, isn't it. Just learn to please Jesus.

One of the ways my mother taught me to love Jesus was by the way she dressed, what she said and what she did. What standard did she use to make her decisions? God's standard, of course! Because she dressed modestly, I wanted to copy her. But when I grew older and wanted to be like the other girls, to feel like I belonged, I began to desire more than my mother was willing to let me do. I now had to make a choice. I had to ask myself some questions: Who has the right to rule my life? Did God make it

impossible to obey him? Why not? Do I return His love? Am I thankful for His love? Can I obey him in the way **HE** wanted me to dress and act?

Young ladies, yes, you have to make a choice in how you dress. Dress is not neutral! Everyone has a dress code—either because you thought carefully about your choice from a moral, God-driven standpoint, or because you let someone else think for you and you have accepted their choice. You say, never? Hmm, when you pop into clothing stores, what are you looking for but for "fashion" clothes designed by ungodly men and women whose god is big money. What makes big money? **S.E.X!** What kind of fashion clothing? To reveal the body! One fashion designer (J Pollard) said, "The deliberate concealment of certain parts of the body originated not as a way of discouraging sexual interest, but as a clever device for arousing—covering the body in such a way as to exaggerate and draw attention to the naked body underneath."

So the real choice over our standards of dress is between man as lawgiver (Sex! Pride! Money!) or God as lawgiver (modest clothing). God has always cared about how women **AND** men dress, Gen 3:6-11,21.

When Adam and Eve sinned they recognized that their naked bodies must be covered, but God had to give them guidance about how much of their bodies must be covered. What God provided we **KNOW** is modest in His eyes. When we read of God's design for his priests' clothing, it can give us even more understanding of modest clothing, Ex 28:40-42.

Read 1 Timothy 2:9,10 and 1 Peter 3:3,4 and you will see: modesty is tied together with purity, humility, moderation, propriety, shamefacedness, and reverence. Until we settle this matter of who is going to set the standard of dress in our hearts, we will not allow the Scriptures to teach us to wisely apply the many principles that must guide our choice of dress code.

Yes, modesty is an issue of the heart. And if the heart is true and right with God, it will exercise inner self-government before God, with outward evidence of humility and purity from a genuine love for Christ. People will read your heart by looking at the clothes you wear!

We are in a battle against Satan in our culture. The lust of the flesh is one of Satan's strongest tools, 1 Jn 2:16. We are bombarded with messages of sexuality—TV, newspapers, magazines, billboards, radio. We can rarely find modest clothing in the shops... All of these things numbs and dulls our senses as to what is appropriate dress.

Young ladies, you are not alone. There are other good young women who are trying to live for Jesus. I know it will take extra effort to consider what you wear and the difficulty you will have in finding modest clothing. It might even cost more if you make your clothing yourself or have it made. Yes, it will be really hard to stand out, to be different, to not be part of the "in" crowd, to not be accepted. But you **CAN** make the right choice. It is worth going

against the crowd. You will be developing true beauty of the heart and you will be a beautiful woman long after your friends have shriveled up and are looking like old ladies. You are going to be full of life. So pay the price now, and watch how God will bless you with fruit.

Let us think. Men are created by God to be visually stimulated. The following list of problems has been **made by young men** who want to encourage you to dress modestly: **...EYE MAGNETS!**

Tight clothing. If you are wearing jeans that are the exact imprint of your seat, they're too tight. If you can see each cheek outlined, it's too tight. If you can't grab any loose fabric from your chest, your shirt is too tight.

Too thin. Thin material is very clingy and reveals too much of the exact shape you are. Men do not need to wonder if you are wearing a bra or not—or waiting to catch you standing in the sunlight. Is it a hot day? What then?

Low-cut. If you can even begin to see cleavage, go back to the closet and put on more clothes. Showing even a little makes the guys imagine what is further down.

Too short. Can you see your thigh when you sit down? Legs are attractive and men don't stop there, and mentally take your skirt off. And on the sport field? What then?

Midriff showing. Men will imagine their hands go up under your top and reaching downward into your panties.

Yes, men cannot help the desire to look at an attractive woman, but what they do with the thought **AFTER** they look is their responsibility. But why would we want to make them struggle with sin? Do we just not care? Is that why women dress so indecently? Do we want to cause another woman's husband to sin?

Help our men, young and old, to make it to heaven! **BE** that Christian woman you say you are and **LIVE** it. If we have any

doubts about our choices, we need to examine our conscience. We can ask ourselves how we would feel if we were standing before a preacher or president. Imagine that Jesus is sitting beside us. Would he be comfortable with what we are wearing? (He is there with you, He sees, He knows...)

PARENTS, we are to model a consistent example, Deut 6:5-7. You cannot have a double standard in how you dress and what you teach your girls.

Parents are charged by God to protect their children. Modesty is just **ONE** area that must be done. We must teach the principle of ownership. Our bodies are not our own. They belong to God. Jesus is Lord over all. You do not belong to this world. God is trusting us to respect our bodies, our beauty and how we use it. Necessary to constantly train our children from a young age, encouraging right choices right up until they marry. Teach your daughters how to be modest around their dad, around their brothers. It should be a way of life. Make it the normal, natural way to dress, behave **ALL** the time. Emphasize that they cannot make other girls their standard for dress. The issue of your children's clothing must not be a bigger issue than their hearts. Help them to recognize that it is pride that will get in the way of choosing appropriate clothing. Young women **MUST** understand the power of their influence on men and how we can destroy their good intentions.

Let us teach and encourage our girls. Nothing hurts a young lady more than to be accused of dressing like a harlot who is

trying to seduce a man when she doesn't realize she is doing so.

What can we the church do to help our young people?

Education! Confront the problem before the problem exists. Teach with great regularity and boldness the principles of godly living. Teach by example! Titus 2:3-5,7. Live godly lives before one another and this will accomplish more than a hundred sermons and classes.

Expectation! We need to **EXPECT** those who say they are children of God to act like it!

Examination! It is critical that we "examine everything carefully and prayerfully, lest there be any among us who may fall short of God's gracious gift of salvation, Heb 12:14,15; 1 Thess 5:21,22. If one among us is behaving immorally, including provocative apparel, designed to entice lustful thoughts in others, to be something less than walking in holiness—then we owe it to that person, as well as to the congregation, to call them to more responsible behavior.

Talk! Reason with Bibles opened when talking to a Christian who is not dressing modestly. Not only should young people be brought to an awareness of how to dress herself but her parents also need to be educated. If such a talk is done in love, and with God's Word as the guiding standard, then precious souls can be steered back onto the straight and narrow way of Christ.

The church is the bride of Christ. Let us honor and protect His bride! 

Remember in Prayer

Please continue to pray for **Carolyn; Betty; Hazel; Dwight and Shirley;** as well as **Larry's** mother, **Polly; Cindy's** parents (**Don** and **Jackie Churches**), and her brother **Kenny**, who cares for them; and **John**,

Sylvia, and **Paige Pollard**. ...And thank our gracious God for His kindness and mercy! Even on the worst of days, how blessed we are!