

THE CONTENDER

(90)

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)
Church of Christ: 4th Ave. South Shore, Ky P.O. Box 649 July 28, 1974
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LITTLE THINGS

We in the Church of Christ are accused of being too strict by the worldly and "sticklers" for "little things". We are not "a bunch of legalistic Pharisees" but simply have an earnest, sincere, zeal to obey from our hearts ALL of the doctrine of the Son of God. Faithful gospel preachers pray and labor to this end (Col. 4:12). The Bible has much to say about the importance of "little things". How do you measure up to the below?

CLOTHING: When buying your clothes do you remember the separation God has pleased upon the sexes and seek to dress accordingly? (Matt. 19:4) Girls, is your dress modest and simple (I Tim. 2:9) purchased with a "sense of shame" in mind or is it short and wild bought with the desire of attracting boys with your body rather than by your godly conversation? Its wonderful and refreshing to see these long dresses coming back in style but sister remember if your breasts are showing you are lascivious and not modest even if your dress is long enough to erase your tracks when you walk!

THE COVERING: Men, let's remember the admonition of the apostle Paul that; "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head."

(I Cor. 11:4) That means the removal of our hats, hoods, and turbans in prayer that we bring not dishonor to Christ. Likewise sisters, Paul said to you; "But

every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying, disgraces her head; for she is one and the same with her whose head is shaved. For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off;" and emphasis the importances by saying, "But if one is inclined to be contentious, we have no other practice, nor have the churches of God." (I Cor. 11:1-16 NASV)

DANCING: A fruit of the flesh that will condemn our soul is lasciviousness (Gal. 5:19). The Greek word means, "...indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females." (Thayerpp. 79,80) The dictionary says: "...lewd, wanton, lustful,..tending to produce lewd emotions." Dancing falls directly in this category.

HAIR: The Bible teaches plainly that a man is not to have long hair. (I Cor. 11:14) Surely men, we'll have no trouble understanding our hair length if we walk in fear of God comparing men with men, remembering the Roman Caesars who set the style and shunning the appearance of an hippie. Sisters, your hair is to be long, not cut or braided as it is your glory. (I Tim. 2:9 I Cor. 11:15) See also: Song 7:5, Ez. 16:7, Luke 7:38, John 12:3 I Pet. 3:3 and Rev. 9:8.

NEWS & NOTES: We are deeply saddened that the lives of bro. and sis. Dewey Madden and sister Margret Rhoden are not in harmony with the Gospel of Christ and until public correction is made on their part we wish it known that their actions no longer reflect membership in this congregation.

* * ORDER OF SERVICES * *
* * *Lord's Day: 10:00 a.m. Worship * *
* * *7:30 p.m. Worship * *
* * *Thursday: 7:30 p.m. Bible Study* *

JEWELRY: In spite of the Apostle Paul's plain teaching that women are not to adorn themselves with "...gold, or pearls, or costly array." (I Tim. 2:9) we find sisters, especially elderly ones, going about with necklaces and bracelets etc. made from them. More seriously we find preachers taking this plain passage which prohibits such and saying it doesn't mean what it says. Just how could language be any plainer? What would Paul have to say to forbid the wearing of such that he has not said?

MAKE-UP: I wonder at times just why an elderly sister would wish to dye her hair jet black? Doesn't the Bible say, "The hoary head is a crown of glory," (Prov. 16:31)? Could it be that they wish to hide the fact that it is not to be found in the way of righteousness? Note the following evil examples:

"And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window." (II Kings 9:30)

"And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy (enlargest thine ASV) face (eyes ASV) with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life." (Jer. 4:30)

"..for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments." (Ez. 23:40)

"Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids." (Prov. 6:25)

PANTS: I've heard of sound gospel preachers who contend boldly for the separation of the sexes whose own daughters fail to heed these godly principles. Oh, the pity, and oh, how their influence might suffer. Might note the below ad that was run in a news paper by a lady of a denominational church.

FOR SALE: Beans--about July 15. All that come please be dressed like the Lord meant--men, women, and children--women no shorts or pants. Thank you all. Mrs. Alva Antle

Now, read this and see if you still think it is all right to wear your pants ladies--"Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God." (I Cor. 10:31-33)

SHORTS: What can we say to a sister in Christ who parades around in shorts and bathing suits? Can we say she is modest? No. can we say she is walking in fear of the Lord? Hardly. We can describe her with Scripture however: "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace....For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Rom. 8:5,6, 13,14)

WHAT WOULD YOU CALL HER?

What would you call a girl who: read her Bible every day, prays at night, does not pet or dance, has never tasted beer or experimented with drugs, studies hard and respects her teachers, studies for Bible class, has no cigarett stain on her fingers nor odor on her breath, enjoys clean fun, avoids filthy literature, movies and T.V., finds no pleasure in vulgarity or smuttiness, honors her parents and is not carried away by the prevailing fashions, believes it wrong to lie, thoughtful of elders and is at ease in their presence and has the courage to say "NO" when the crowd goes wrong? What would you call her? Well, that would depend on what kind of a guy you are wouldn't it?

WHY NOT SIMPLY BE A CHRISTIAN?