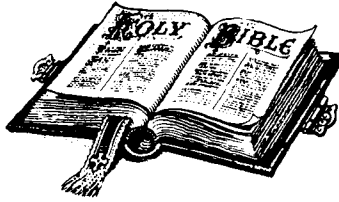


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16*

Volume 23

NOVEMBER, 1986

Number 11

## IS ONE CHURCH AS GOOD AS ANOTHER?

Frequently we hear someone in his efforts to justify the existence of denominationalism come out with the statement, "One church is as good as another." He who does not so "think" is commonly labeled "ignorant" and "narrow," but let us see.

Jesus said, "**I will build my church**" (Matthew 16:18). Martin Luther built his. John Wesley built his. King Henry VIII built his and Christ built his. Now according to the common logic, Luther's is just as good as Wesley's, and they are both just as good as the one the Lord built. Do you really believe that these men came up with a church just as good as the Lord's? I don't believe that any sane person who respects the Christ at all will answer in the affirmative.

I wonder, though, if Martin Luther, from whom the Lutheran church got its name, endured the persecutions of Papal Rome because it didn't make any difference what a man believed or practiced?

Do you honestly think that John Wesley, the father of the Methodist Church, suffered the criticisms and the ridicule of the Church of England because one way of worshipping was just as good as another?

Then, too, did the early settlers come to America, the Baptists, Presbyterians, Quakers and others because one was as good as another? They came for religious freedom. They wanted to worship God in a specific way and they made the sacrifice of possessions and homes to live where they could. Their leaders would vow that their church was right and anything contrary was erroneous.

They have departed from the faith of their founders. What brought about this change of ideas? They sought and found the "course of least resistance," and a new and broad (?) way of thinking. It was easier.

The Lord's church is **best** because HE BUILT IT. He bought it with His own blood. (Acts 20:28). If Luther or anyone else could have accomplished such without this sacrifice, it was foolish for Christ to endure the sufferings on the cross. The church of Christ is the only church in existence by divine authority.

-Mack Lyon in CHURCHNEWS, 10/23/49

### THE PSALMIST SAID:

**"Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings." (Psalms 17:8).**

## THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama

CARROL R. SUTTON  
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 1107 Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

### **“CONSIDER WHAT I SAY . . .” (No. 3)**

The idea that it is possible to understand “all things” that God requires of us is beyond the acceptation (if not the understanding) of some people. Let us keep in mind the fact that Paul said to Timothy: “Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.” It is obvious from Paul’s statement that one is **not** given “understanding in all things” by the Lord **unless** he considers what Paul (and other inspired men) have spoken.

#### IF WE CONSIDER

In Ephesians 2:13-18 we read: “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.” If we consider what Paul said, we can learn and

**understand** that Christ Jesus died in order to reconcile both Jew and Gentile unto God in **one body!** For further information along this line please read and **consider** what Paul said in Romans 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-20; Ephesians 1:20-23 and Col. 1:18.

If we **consider** what Paul said in Ephesians 4:4-6 the Lord will give us **understanding** concerning **how many** Spirits, bodies, hopes, Lords, faiths, baptisms and Gods there are. Here is what Paul, who was inspired of God, said: “**There is ONE body, and ONE Spirit, even as ye are called in ONE hope of your calling; ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism, ONE God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.**” Do you understand **how many** bodies, Spirits, hopes, Lords, faiths, baptisms and Gods there are? If not, please **consider** what Paul said and the Lord will give you an **understanding** of these matters. Do you **desire** “**understanding in all things?**” Really?

If we **consider** what Paul said in Galatians 5:19-21 the Lord will give us **understanding** as to what are the works of the flesh and what will happen to those who do such things. Here is what Paul, who was inspired of God, said: “**Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**” Do you understand what are the works of the flesh? Do you understand that those who do such things “**shall not inherit the kingdom of God?**” If you will **consider** what Paul has spoken, the Lord will give you an **understanding** of these matters. If you listen to what men say, you may be convinced that you can engage in the works of the flesh and still inherit the kingdom of God.

(CRS)

(To be continued)

# THE DRESS OF A "GOD FEARING" WOMAN

One of the ever present problems of every child of God (male and female) is that of his dress. Customs and styles change with the whims of designers. There is the ever present pressure from the world to always dress "in style." To some degree how one dresses is a matter of personal taste and means, but there are some principles that Christians must consider as they adorn themselves and appear at work, at play, in worship and in their every appearance before their fellow man. Let us try to look at some of these principles in an unbiased way and see if it will help us in deciding what we will wear.

After sin came into the world, God intended that people be clothed. This is seen in that when He drove Adam and Eve from the Garden that He made them coats of skins. (Gen. 3:21). This was not just to protect them from the eyes of others for at this time there were no others! One lesson I see very evident is that GOD INTENDED them to be clothed; thus the idea of public nudism is contrary to the mind of God ever since sin came into men's lives.

To some degree how one dresses demonstrates the thinking of one's inner person. Granted that this may not be true in every case due to the innocence of childhood, lack of maturity, the desire to follow custom and the dressing habits of others, etc., but there is much evidence to show that our outward appearance demonstrates to a degree how we feel inwardly. In Titus 2:5 Paul instructs Titus to teach the older women to teach the younger women to be "**discreet, chaste.**" The idea of "**discreet**" is that of using sound judgment and would certainly apply to using good judgment in one's appearance. The thought of "**chaste**" is "**pure in thought and act; modest.**"

In Galatians 5:19 as Paul lists the works of the flesh one of those things he mentions is "**lasciviousness**" which is defined as "**tending to produce lewd emotions.**" "**Lewd**" is then defined as "**lustful.**" The point is that anything one does (dress, actions,

words, etc.) that serves as a means either consciously or unconsciously, to produce impure or lustful thoughts in the heart of the observer is sinful (lascivious). Paul says one who does such things "**shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**" (Galatians 5:21). What our dress (whether because of a lack of it or the style) tends to produce in the minds of those who observe us is important. Jesus said whosoever looks with lust has sinned, (Matthew 5:28), and Paul says that when one acts so as to produce such lust, he sins!

But someone is quick to say that evil minded men will think as they please regardless of what the ladies (young or old) wear. To some degree this is true. But on the other hand, does your dress or actions ENCOURAGE such thoughts? If so, then you stand condemned also! Ladies, it is high time that you all look at this problem with as near an unemotional and unprejudiced eye as possible. The person who fears God and who tries to please Him has a fearful responsibility. You may have to give up some of your "freedoms" or "liberties" regarding dress to be sure that you do not become a stumbling block and thus a "partner" in sin. (Read Romans 14:15-21; 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 — Will principle apply here?)

Does spending time at a public beach (or pool) in a modern swim suite (out of the water most of the time) "**tend to produce impure emotions**" in the mind of the observer? Does the wearing of mini-skirts, certain types of shorts, form fitting dresses, etc. in the yard, on shopping trips, or even to worship "**tend to produce impure emotions?**" Are these truly the adornment of one who is "**discreet, chaste?**" Or are they the apparel of one who cares little what others think of them? Remember the child of God is to be an example in every aspect of his (or her) life! (Read Matthew 5:16; Philipians 2:12-16 and make the application.)

--J. F. Dancer in KNOW THE TRUTH,  
July 13, 1972

# ***IT ISN'T EASY . . .***

- To admit wrong;
  - To begin again;
  - To apologize and ask forgiveness.
  - To face a sneer bravely and calmly;
  - To be considerate of others;
  - To endure success with gratitude;
  - To keep on trying when discouraged;
  - To be unselfish;
  - To forgive and forget;
  - To profit by mistakes;
  - To keep out of the rut of the world.
  - To think and then act;
  - To accept responsibility;
  - To subdue an ugly temper;
  - To change an unpleasant disposition;
  - To make the best of little;
  - To shoulder deserved blame.
  - To maintain a high standard;
  - To recognize the silver lining;
  - To be grateful for every blessing;
- BUT IT ALWAYS PAYS IN THE END.**

# **SUTTON - FROST DEBATE**

The second in a series of public discussions between **Carrol R. Sutton** and **Jack L. Frost**, founder & president of **THE END-TIME SOCIETY OF TRUE HOLINESS CHRISTIANS, Inc.**, of Berry, Alabama is scheduled to be conducted November 17, 18, 20 & 21, 1986 at 7:30 P.M. It will be conducted in the Tuscaloosa-Southside Lion's Club Building which is located on Greensborough Ave. at 31st Street in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

On Nov. 17 & 18 **Carrol R. Sutton** will affirm that "**The Scriptures teach that immersion (a burial in water) is the proper action of baptism.**" On Nov. 20 & 21 **Jack L. Frost** will affirm that "**The Scriptures that the only Scriptural mode of baptism ordained of God is sprinkling and pouring.**"

A third debate between these men is scheduled for Dec. 1, 2, 4, & 5, 1986 on the **purpose of water baptism**. It is to be held at the building of the East Albertville Congregation here in Albertville.

For further information on the next debate call **Bob Smith** at (205) 345-2378 or **Bob Mitchell** at (205) 752-9000.

## ***— Sentence Sermons —***

Strong men, not strong walls, make a strong city!

\* \* \* \* \*

Giving without loving is not true giving.

\* \* \* \* \*

We should pray more for a change in character than in circumstances.

\* \* \* \* \*

To learn God's will we must listen to God's word.

\* \* \* \* \*

Before we forget the lost, we had better count the cost.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**1107 Highway 431 South**  
**Albertville, Alabama 35950**