

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

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REPENTANCE

Repentance is part of two laws of pardon. It is required of both the alien sinner and the back-sliding Christian. To those convicted on Pentecost Peter said: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . ." (Acts 2:38). To Simon, the erring Christian of Samaria, Peter said, "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." (Acts 8:22). Since repentance belongs to two laws of pardon, it is something that must be preached, however hard it may be to get people to do it. It has always been hard to get people to repent. Jesus upbraided the cities wherein many of his mighty works were done because they repented not. (Matt. 11:20).

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Repentance is not being convicted. The people on Pentecost were convicted after listening to Peter's sermon, yet they were told to repent. It is not being afraid. Many people have been terrified by thoughts of death and the judgment, including Felix (Acts 24:), but never repented. Repentance is not being sorry. Godly sorrow leads to it but is not itself repentance. (2 Cor. 7:9).

When John, the baptizer, came preaching repentance, he said to the people, "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance . . ." When the people asked what to do, he said, "He that hath two coats,

let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. "When the publicans asked the question, he said to them, "Exact no more than that which is appointed you." To the soldiers he said, "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages." (Luke 3:8-14). From this, we observe that when one repents there is a reformation of life. Repentance comes between Godly sorrow and the reformation of life. It is therefore a change of mind of will. In Matt. 21:28 Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterwards he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not." Jesus said the first one repented. What did he do? He changed his mind of will and did the thing he said he would not do. This, according to Jesus, is repentance.

HOW MEN ARE LED TO REPENTANCE

Some think God performs miracles to get people to repent. If this is true, why is it that so few repent? Why doesn't God perform miracles and get all to repent? The Bible method of leading men to repent is to point them to the judgment. When Jesus upbraided the cities for a failure to repent, he pointed them to the judgment. Jonah led the people of Ninevah to repent by pointing them to a day of judgment. In Acts 17:30-31 Paul says God hath "commanded all

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Editorial . . .

DRESS - IS IT BY FAITH? (No. 3)

In our last two articles we have shown conclusively from God's Word that such clothing as shorts, mini-skirts, brief swim suits, tight fitting clothes, low-cut garments, stretch pants, etc. are NOT "of faith" and thus can not be worn "by faith." They are **immodest** and **lascivious**. They can not be worn "with **shamefacedness and sobriety**." Such clothing does NOT become "women **professing godliness**" (nor men). (See 1 Timothy 2:9-10; Galatians 5: 19-21; Matthew 5:28).

Since "we walk by faith", (2 Cor. 5:7), and "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God," (Romans 10:17), it is very evident that we can not practice a thing "by faith" UNLESS it is authorized in God's Word. In view of the fact that many women of the world and some who profess to be Christians wear masculine type clothes such as jeans, trousers and pant-suits, it is certainly in order that we raise the question: "Is it by faith?" Is the wearing of such clothes by women authorized in God's Word? Is it? Are you willing to study the Scriptures to see what the Word of God says? Is your mind open? Are you willing to accept (and practice) whatever you learn the Word of God teaches? Let us consider the following principles.

1. "In the beginning God made them male and female." (See Matthew 19: 4-6; Genesis 1:27). God created man and women.

He made them **distinct** from all animals and from each other. He obviously wanted a **distinction to exist**. We have no right to deny that such **distinction** exists. Neither should we be ashamed of it. It was **God** who designed and brought into being **both** male and female.

2. Under the Old Testament law God demanded that the distinction between man and woman be indicated by their dress. God said: "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are **abomination unto the Lord thy God**." (Deuteronomy 22:5). This was God's will in the matter!

3. In the New Testament a distinction is made between male and female. Male and female are still distinct. There is no way we can destroy that distinction and continue to exist as a human race. **God wants this distinction manifested!** Man is the head of the woman. The woman is the glory of the man. The woman is of the man and was created for the man. Man is not to cover his head when "praying or prophesying," but every woman is to cover her head while "Praying or prophesying." It is a **shame** for a man to have long hair, but it is a **glory** to a woman to have long hair. (See 1 Corinthians 11: 1-16). Men are to provide for their wives and children, (see 1 Timothy 5:8), and women are to be "keepers at home," (Titus 2:3-5), and "guide the house." (1 Timothy 5:14). Women should "obey" and "reverence" their husbands. (See Ephesians 5:22-25, 33). The husband should give "honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel." (See 1 Peter 3:7). Women should not "teach nor usurp authority over the man," but should "learn in silence with all subjection." (See 1 Timothy 2:11-12). Women should "keep silence in the churches" because "it is a shame for women to speak in the church." (See 1 Corinthians 14: 34-35). Men and women are made **distinct** from each other and they have **distinct** relationships, duties and obligations. This distinctiveness must not be broken and removed.

4. **Clothes, dress or actions that destroy the distinction between men and woman are sinful.** Women must appear feminine and men must appear masculine. Men who are "effeminate" shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (See 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Will God look on women who are "masculine" with approbation? The woman's dress should be

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DRESS — IS IT BY FAITH?

determined by her position - that of subjection to man, her sex and her character. The wearing of jeans, trousers, or pant-suits definitely serve to break down the distinction between men and women. Those who truly wear "**modest apparel with shamefacedness and sobriety**" recognize that God made them distinct and they observe that distinctiveness. They dress with sound judgment & soberness. Fashion and style do not persuade them to do otherwise. When a woman wears trousers or pants that are cut closely enough to fit and reveal the female form, they are immodest and lascivious. If they are cut loosely enough to keep from fitting and revealing the female form, (most women won't wear them), they make her look "**manish**" and thus destroy the distinction (in appearance) that should exist. Godly women want to look like what they are! Godly men want to look like what they are! Neither desires to look like the other!

5. **The wearing of masculine type clothes such as trousers, jeans and pant-suits definitely reflect and encourage the efforts and influence of the Women's Liberation Movement.** However sincere some of its advocates may be, this movement is diametrically opposed to God's teaching relative to the husband - wife relationship and the duties and responsibilities of each. (See Ephesians 5:22-33; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Timothy 5:8, 14; 1 Peter 3: 1-7; 1 Corinthians 11:3). This movement is seeking to destroy the family unit as God ordained it. It is a movement that encourages immorality and rebellion against God. Discerning Christians will seek to avoid any appearance of encouragement to or sympathy with such a movement. We should not be a "**partaker of other men's sins.**" (See 1 Timothy 5:22). Women should not encourage such.

6. **The wearing of jeans, trousers and pant-suits by women definitely reflect and contribute to the unisex movement.** The unisex movement is doing what it can to blurr, break down and destroy the distinction between the sexes. A writer of an article in LIFE MAGAZINE, 10-18-68, said: "**Now it doesn't take a sociologist to point out that we have reached the stage where nobody can tell male from female**

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anymore. I know it doesn't take a sociologist because half of the writers in America have pointed it out. And Monosex. And dissexualization and neuterization. And role reversal and identity transference. Mommy wants to be Daddy, and Daddy wants to be Mommy. . ." IN an article on UNISEX in FAMILY HEALTH December, 1970, Judith Ramsey stated: "**To at one leading sociologist, the current vogue for interchangeable, his-or-her clothing has a really ominous meaning. It's a sure sign that our society is under going a massive dislocation of sexual identity, suggests Charles Winick, who is professor of sociology at the City University of New York. Prof. Winick thinks that we are headed on a perilous course toward total desexualization, with women becoming less womanly and men more passive. . . There are signs of unisex every where, Winick says. Nowhere is it more blatant than in clothing. . . The question of clothing is not so irrelevant or unimportant as it might appear, Winick declares. He thinks the blurring of masculine and feminine distinctions could spell disaster for the health of our nation. How could this be? Because people can not cope with critical life situations until they are certain of their identity as masculine or feminine. When the sexual distinctions become blurred, individuals and society are in deep trouble. . .**" Only the uninformed and those whose senses are undiscerning or dull will fail to see the evil of the unisex movement. Surely no godly woman (or man) would want to dress in such a way so as to promote or even encourage the unisex movement.

NO, WOMEN CAN NOT WEAR SUCH CLOTHES AS JEANS, TROUSERS AND PANT-SUITS "BY FAITH!" Informed, mature Christians will not practice nor encourage such!

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REPENTANCE

men to repent: because he hath appointed a day in which we will judge the world. . ." This is the method used by Jesus, Paul, and all early preachers. Friends, have you ever thought of the judgment? How did you feel? You felt like you needed to repent, didn't you? Pointing to the judgment is powerful in leading men to repent.

The goodness of God also leads men to repent. "Or despiseth thou the riches of his

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THEY WERE ALL WRONG

A good many years ago, a preacher went into a town where there was no New Testament church. He preached in a house of worship and then in the market place of the city. Soon the religious leaders of the city heard him and invited him to address them. They thought that if his religious claims seemed meritorious to them, they would fellowship him. But, to their dismay and confusion, he preached that they were wrong and he was right; that their worship was not acceptable to the God of heaven. He preached that the church to which he belonged was the only true church of the living God. Such a preacher! Don't you know he hurt their feelings? Evidently they were sincere. Surely he could have made a nice talk and got away without causing discord! Who was this preacher anyway? His name was Paul, and he preached this sermon in Athens. It did cause some stir. It did not please those religious leaders at all. They got up and left before he finished. But the sermon pleased God. You can see and read it in Acts 17. There is no room in Christ's church for a compromiser.

----GOSPEL GUIDE

Paul said: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"
(Philippians 4:13)

WHY WE EXIST

Unless the church of Christ has a distinctive plea it has no right to exist. We stand for the New Testament way of worship and service to God without any addition thereto nor subtraction therefrom. Unto that end churches of Christ reject all human innovations in religion. Our course and conception of Christianity are determined by the New Testament only.

This conscientious position has brought disfavor upon us frequently and we have often been called "narrow" because we draw the line of fellowship against those things we do not find within the authority of God's word. Yet we continue to pursue this course since the purity of our faith depends upon our drawing a clear and distinct line against everything the Bible does not enjoin.

--Gayle Oler in JUST A MOMENT, 6-24-50

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goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Rom. 2:4). If you will think about all that God has done for you, you will want to repent. His goodness is a great incentive to repentance.

--Hershell E. Patton in GOSPEL DIGEST

Sentence Sermons

There is a lot of history that isn't fit to repeat itself.

Fleshly pleasure is a hornet's nest - more full of stings than honey.

Habits are first cobwebs, then cables.

If we do not share Christ, we can not keep Him.

He who walks with God will never be late for his spiritual meals.

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