

*What
Should
We
Wear?*

The Age Old Question

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Preface

I want to say first of all, I am not trying to set a standard for anybody. This is not the purpose of this little booklet, nor do I have the authority to set a standard. I am, however, attempting to uphold the standard already set by God, and given to us in His Holy Bible. I do not want anybody following me, or what I preach, except as it is found in the Word of God. I judge no person, and trust no person will judge me. God is my judge, and God is your judge.

The Bible states that the prophet is charged with declaring God's Word. If the people are doing good, they must be told they are doing good from the Word of God. If the people are doing bad, they must be told they are doing bad from the Word of God. If the prophets sounds out the Word of God, he is no longer responsible for the message or the people that hear the message. If those that listen heed his warning and turn from their sins, they will receive the benefit. If those that listen refuse to heed his warning and turn from their sins, they will receive the punishment.

There must be no compromise of the truth because of friends, family, or anything else. Truth remains the same whether it is accepted or rejected. The eternal God, and His eternal truth, is the final judge. Each of us is answerable to Him and to Him alone. I would urge the reader to carefully consider what God's Word declares as revealed in the pages of this small booklet.

It really doesn't make any difference what is believed about this subject. It only matters what God says about this subject.

It really doesn't make any difference what is taught about this subject. It only matters what God's Word teaches about this subject.

It really doesn't make any difference what has been practiced in the past. It only matters what God Word says ought to be practiced.

I have known, understood, and preached the truths in this booklet for many years, but have hesitated to put them into the form of a booklet because these truths are often misunderstood, or misrepresented, even though they are clearly explained.

I have lived to see a great change in the culture of the United States. The majority of these changes are not good. A part of the cultural change in the United States is what people wear for clothing, but what people wear is not the major problem. It is only a symptom of the real disease. The following list are symptoms of the real disease. The disease is: God is forgotten, His Word is pushed aside, and His way is lost from memory.

I was born December 10, 1943, during World War II. There are several things I remember about those days gone by.

- I remember when children were obedient to their parents, and wanted to please them.
- I remember my grade school days when the boys played on one side of the playground and the girls played on the other side of the playground.

- I remember when good kids shunned sex, alcohol, and drugs. Truthfully, the strongest drug around when I was growing up was “white lightening”.
- I remember there were kids who participated in premarital sex, and used alcohol, but their actions were not accepted by society, or by other young people.
- I remember when girls were respected and women, especially mothers, were just a little lower than “gods”.
- I remember when family was important, and seldom was divorce mentioned. It was understood that divorce created more problems than it solved.
- I remember when dads stayed with the wife of their youth and raised their children. I now see many dads who are not the head of their households, if they are still with their households. I see children ruling parents. I see both parents working outside the home. I see many children growing up without parental supervision or guidance.
- I remember that pregnancy outside of marriage happened, but not very often, and the boy and girl recognized they had done wrong. Sex outside of marriage happened, but wasn’t encouraged, or publicized. Not like it is on television and movies today.
- I remember being in a group of men when one of them would say a bad word. He would say, “excuse me” to the men, and especially to me, as I was just a boy. I would hear the men curse a little when there were just men present, but they would clean up their language when women and children were present.
- I remember that religion was very important. It wasn’t a circus, or a contest for the most attendance, or the largest building.
- I remember prayers and Bible readings in the public schools I attended.
- I remember teachers being able to spank students who misbehaved, and those same students getting in trouble with their parents when they got home.
- I remember when “hyper” students were told to “sit down and be still” instead of being drugged.
- I remember when Elvis Presley began the movement that would forever change the way people look at music and the culture around them. I was just a boy when rock music began its terrible beat, which has continued unabated, ever strengthening until this present time.
- I remember when young people began to follow the “fads” publicized by the beginning rock movement instead of following the “traditions” of their fathers, traditions which were based on the Bible.
- I remember when some young girls began to wear pants, not pants like the boys wore, which were one color. Most “girls pants” were brightly colored, with large flowers, strips, or checks, and the zipper was on the side, not on the front.

It was during this time of my life that most women around me wore dresses and men wore pants. It was a time before Hollywood had the influence on our lives as it has now. It was a slower time, a time before there were television shows to watch and imitate. Most women wore a head covering to church services, and didn’t hold public jobs. They worked at home or helped their husbands on their jobs.

God called me to preach in 1969, and I was ordained to the gospel ministry on July 17, 1971. When I began to pastor, the subject of Christian dress was not a very popular subject, as it is not today. There was a time in the 1970’s that my wife couldn’t buy a

decent dress. There were pantsuits, or mini skirts. I am very thankful that my wife knew how to sew so she could make her own dresses during this very difficult time. During the mid seventies, few women wore skirts, or dresses. Almost all wore pants. My wife and I would go somewhere, and often she was the only woman wearing a dress. It did not embarrass her or me, but we both realized that we received many strange looks. I am telling you this so you will understand that I know something about how it feels to be the only one doing a certain thing.

It is often stated that if a person believes in wearing the clothing proper for their sex, they are a “legalists”. It is my fervent prayer to God that everybody would understand what a “legalists” is – what the **Bible** says a “legalists” is, and not what some man says it is.

It is often stated that if a person believes in wearing the clothing proper for their sex that they are trying to be saved by keeping the law, or by doing good works. This could be true, but it is not necessarily the truth. Ephesians 2:8,9 states very emphatically, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.* Salvation is by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. People who are saved have nothing to brag about except Jesus Christ, who saved them. The laws of God are obeyed, not because of necessity, but because of desire.

When you are finished reading this small booklet, and you still do not believe in what I call “Christian dress”, I trust you and I will still be friends. I know I will continue to be your friend.

Introduction

Christian Thinking Is Wrong

The entire issue of what people are supposed to wear is a totally senseless issue.

The entire problem has come about because Christian people are more concerned about what lost people think of them than they are about what God thinks of them.

When a person is saved, they become a new creature in Christ Jesus. II Cor. 5:17 states, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

When a person is saved, they have a new Saviour, a new king, a new life, a new way of living, a new goal for living, a new purpose of living, eternal values, and eternal joy.

When a person is saved, they are a new person in Christ, yet --- they still have a desire to hang onto the things of this world. That's called the "sinful nature."

The saved person must understand the internal warfare against Satan. The saved person must understand that he get his instructions from God's Word. The saved person also understands that every saved person continues to get some of his instructions from the ways of the world, from the traditions of the world, and his own past experience.

What has happened is that Christian people have stopped listening to God and have turned their ears toward the world, and have listened to *their* logic, instead of reading their Bibles. Christian people have become more concerned about what their *neighbors* say about them than they are about what *God* says about them.

Christian people certainly don't want to hinder lost friends and neighbors, but Christians have flawed thinking when they believe they can influence their lost friends and neighbors toward Christ by thinking and acting as lost people think and act. Lost people are totally depraved and cannot act or think like Christians. They need someone to guide them to Christ, then Christ will instruct them in how to act.

An example of how Christianity works is given in Acts 8:30,31. *"And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.* God sent Philip to preach to the Ethiopian Eunuch because it was necessary that *somebody* show him the way. The Ethiopian Eunuch was reading Isaiah 53, which clearly proclaims the gospel, yet he could not understand it unless somebody showed him what it meant.

Lost people are exactly like the Ethiopian Eunuch. They cannot understand Christianity unless somebody shows them. Christian people are supposed to be examples to the lost. Lost people are not supposed to be examples to the saved. Christ is our example! God has given us the greatest gift in the entire world because salvation lasts for all eternity. We have something every lost person needs. Many saved people are afraid of offending lost people by setting standards that are too high, or by pointing them to Jesus Christ as the only propitiation for their sinfulness. Lost people cannot be good examples to the saved. Saved people must be examples to lost people.

The fact that dress is such a large issue reveals that there is more to this doctrine than meets the eye. What a person wears is the “tip of the iceberg,” because it reveals the inner spiritual condition of that individual. Satan and superficial Christians don’t want any outward signs of inward belief. Superficial Christians want to fit into the world. Superficial Christians do not want to be looked upon as radical or fanatics for the cause of Christ. They want the approval of this world because they are more involved with this world than the world to come. If they would get their eyes off this world and onto God and His holiness, their entire mode of thinking would change.

Chapter I

The Fallacy of Equality

There is no such thing as “equality of the sexes,” even though there are millions of people who have been indoctrinated into believing there is. The two sexes are different because God made them different. They have different bodies, which are built for different purposes. They have different voices, which makes for more harmonious singing. They have different ways of thinking, which gives a complete picture instead of a “lop-sided view.” They have different personalities, which cause different reactions to various circumstances. They have different purposes in life, so everybody won’t be doing the same thing.

A man is incomplete without his wife because God declared that it was not good for the man to be alone. Gen. 2:18 states, *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.* A woman is incomplete without her husband because God has instilled in her a desire for a husband to watch over her. Eph. 5:22-24 affirms, *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.* A man alone, or a woman alone, is incomplete; but when a man and woman are joined together in Holy Matrimony, they make one complete flesh. Eph. 5:31 declares, *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.*

There is a great movement in this world today to eradicate the God-given differences in the sexes. This is easily seen in hair styles, the manner of speaking, dress, and ambitions in life.

There was a time when almost every man wore short hair and almost every woman wore long hair. Today, many men wear long flowing locks down on their shoulders, while the women cut their hair very short, some even shaving their heads.

Formerly, women were engaged in taking care of her family; her husband, and her children. The husband would work to supply for them, but he too was active in rearing the children, teaching them the precepts of God’s Holy Word, to respect themselves, their mother, their neighbors, and their country.

Before World War II, very few women wore men’s clothing. It was the exception, rather than the rule for a woman to put on men’s trousers. Today, it is very common for women to wear pants, the clothing of men. It is so common that it is accepted. It is so accepted that if a woman *doesn’t* wear pants, she is thought to be different. She is thought to be so different that she must be dangerous! There are some men who are now wearing dresses and skirts. These men *are* dangerous!

It is very odd to me that it is accepted that women wear pants, but it is unacceptable for men to wear dresses. I have seen a few men wearing dresses, and they do look odd

(queer). We don't think that women wearing men's clothing looks odd because we are used to it.

Satan is going to set up his kingdom, which will be the exact opposite of God's kingdom. One of the barriers to Satan establishing his Anti-Christ kingdom is the dependency of the husband for the wife and the wife for the husband. Satan must ...*change times and laws...*, Daniel 7:25, to remove what God has instilled in every man and in every woman. Satan must remove the mental, emotional, and physical dependency of husbands for their wives, and wives for their husbands. Satan must remove the child's dependency from the parents, and place that dependency in the state, where he will establish his rule. His plan is to make each person a separate living entity depending entirely upon him.

The Manner of Dress is a Small Beginning (With An Extremely Large Conclusion)

I Tim. 2:9, *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.*

There are a lot of people who use this verse to teach that it is scriptural for a woman to wear pants because they are being "modest" in not showing the flesh of their bodies. But as we have already stated, and as we will further discuss, this is *not* what this verse means.

The word "modest" has different meanings for different people. The older generation declares that modest means not to show the flesh of the ankles or wrists, while the middle generation thinks it is okay to wear short sleeves and to wear shorts on occasion. The younger generation calls both these older generations "old fogey" and declare that "hot pants," halter tops, "see through" blouses, or no clothes at all are okay. They unashamedly declare that being modest is a condition of the heart, and has nothing at all to do with the body. God has not changed **His** definition of "modest." God **doesn't** change and never will change. It is **His** definition that really counts, not the fleeting ideas of man. We must also remember, that the scriptures are not for private interpretation, II Peter 1:20. We must interpret scripture by using other scripture.

"Modest" does not mean to hid the flesh from the eyes of men. It comes from the Greek word "kosmios" which is found only two times in the New Testament. It means **orderly**. I Timothy 2:9 does not teach, therefore, that a woman is to **only** hide her flesh from prying eyes. The verse teaches that a woman is to dress in an orderly fashion, in the dress of a woman, and not the dress of a man. The other time the word "kosmios" is used is in I Tim. 3:2, and is translated "of good behavior." The Greek word "kosmios" comes from the Greek word "kosmos," which is translated into the English word "world" and appears some 188 times in the New Testament. The word "kosmos" refers to the orderliness that makes our world what it is. The orderliness of the world is a reflection of God's creative powers and makes life on the earth possible. It is very pleasing to God when a man and woman dress so as to reflect the orderliness of God's creation and their position in that order.

Saved people, who dress after the fashion of this world, reflect the totally depraved

heart of the disobedient sinner. They are not only destroying the orderliness of God's creation, they are revealing their disobedience to God Himself!

When the Bible speaks about Christian dress, it is not necessarily speaking only about what men see. It is speaking about what God sees. God is interested in the heart, and in preserving the divine order He has established. A person wearing the proper clothing with the wrong heart is unacceptable to God. A person with a right heart will wear the clothing that is acceptable to God. Also notice, this point, a person doesn't wear the proper clothing **in order to be** acceptable to God. A person wears the proper clothing because he is **already** acceptable to God.

I Peter 3:1-6 states, *Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.* Especially notice verse 3, *Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel.* If a Godly woman would win her ungodly husband, then let her be more concerned with the condition of her heart toward her God and her husband. Let her not be so concerned with just the outward **appearance** of righteousness.

Isaiah 3:16-26 informs that there can be too much emphasis placed on the outward appearance. Many religions place more emphasis on the flesh than on the spirit, but I am afraid most Baptists place more emphasis on the "spirit," and not enough on the flesh. It is so typical of mankind to be radically conservative, or radically liberal. Remember that Christ said, *"Ye draw near to me with your mouth, but your heart is far from me."* Matthew 15:18, and Mark 7:6. When the emphasis is placed on the outward appearance, letting the real heart worship get away, God will remove the outward appearance of worship that our hearts will be right with Him.

Deuteronomy 22:5 insists that we place the right amount of emphasis upon our wearing apparel. God, not man, said that for a person to wear the clothing of the opposite sex is an abomination. That's what God means. People have a lot of excuses (they are called "reasons" by some) for doing the things they do and wearing the clothes they wear. All of those reasons won't change God. God established all His decrees before man was created. It's men who try to change God, and it will not work.

Men give many excuses for wearing the clothes of the opposite sex. I can't mention all of them here, but here's a few.

Women's pants are for women and not for men

ANSWER: If this is true, then it stands to reason that I could make a dress for a man and that would be perfectly all right. Whoa! That can't be right! Why does it sound

strange that pants can be made for a woman, but a dress cannot be made for a man? Is it because women have been wearing pants longer than men have been wearing dresses? Most people will rebel at the thought of men in dresses, because it is not socially acceptable for a man to wear a dress. Do you understand what is happening? What is worn is based on what is acceptable to man, not what is acceptable to God. Of course, Homosexuals and sexual deviates believe it is perfectly acceptable for a man to wear a dress. They will encourage this type of behavior, but God maintains it is an abomination.

It must be all right for women to wear men's clothing because Old Testament men wore gowns--which are said to be long dresses

A “side argument” here is that many believe Old Testament men and women dressed alike. ANSWER: First, prove that Old Testament men and women wore clothes that looked alike, but don't use a picture to prove it. A picture is used to prove that Jesus had long hair, in spite of I Corinthians 11:14, *Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?* If Old Testament men and women wore the same clothes, then Deuteronomy 22:5 is the problem! The Bible is God's instruction book for us, and since Deuteronomy 22:5 is given by God for our instruction, then it must be *our* thoughts that are wrong. It just might be that the picture we have in our minds about Old Testament dress is wrong! Has this “mind's eye picture” come from scripture or from pictures? I believe we would be very surprised at what their clothes looked like.

As a side thought to I Cor. 11:14 which states, *Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?* (1) What nature teaches that it is a shame for a man to have long hair and (2) how long is long? (3) How long is too long?

The nature that teaches that it is a shame for a man to have long hair (and that women ought to have longer hair) isn't human nature. The spiritual nature teaches what is right and wrong. This spiritual nature is not the conscience, or the sub-conscience. The Holy Spirit of God is an internal witness that indwells every believer. The Holy Spirit of God uses the Word of God – the Bible, not random feelings of the flesh or mind, to convict saved people of their sinfulness and God's holiness. Romans 8:14 states, *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* Verse 16 continues, *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.* Verse 9 gives the very valuable truth that “...if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” The Spirit of God is active in the life of every believer and is called an anointing. I John 2:27 states, *But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.* The conclusion of the matter is: saved people should follow the Saviour, lost people will not follow the Saviour.

How long is long? How does a person know when long hair on a man is too long? A man told me that every man in the Old Testament had long hair, especially those that lived about the time of Adam. When I asked him why, he stated that they lived in caves and such and didn't have scissors or sharp knives to cut their hair. He asked me if men in those days banged their heads against rocks to beat their hair off. I could hardly believe

my ears! And yes, he was a little stupid, wasn't he? I told the man they had sharp knives so they could give sacrifices, didn't they? He said, "Yes, I suppose they did." I told him they would use those same knives to cut their hair.

There are some people that try to compare the animal race to the human race. They will say that a male lion has a large mane, while the female has very little mane. They remind me that male birds are often much more colorful than female birds. In answer to this inquiry, which is sometimes honest, remember that humans are not animals. Science, falsely so called, tries to tell us that humans and animals are the same, but every biologist know they are different. Some medicines work on humans, but don't work on animals. Animals get some diseases that humans don't get. There are numerous examples of the undeniable fact that humans and animals are different. Gen. 1:24-31 states that God created both humans and animals on the sixth day. They were created on the same day because they both live on land, and God is an orderly God, even in creation. God spent two days preparing the earth for its inhabitants, then created all plant life on the third day, all celestial bodies on the fourth day, that which lives in the water on the fifth day, that which lives on the land on the sixth day, then rested on the seventh day. To compare long hair on men to the lion's mane is erroneous. It is like comparing apples and oranges.

How long is long? There is a thing that amazes me about people trying to figure out how long a man's hair ought to be. They know how long a sermon is. They know how long a baseball game is. They know how long a work day is. Why can't they use some of that same logic to figure out how long a man's hair ought to be? It just may be that they are in spiritual darkness, or they are in rebellion against God and His commandments.

It's too cold

ANSWER: Why don't you dress ("in order," I Tim. 2:9) more warmly? One lady told me she wore long dresses with added clothing beneath. It is as wrong for a man to wear shorts and no shirt when it is hot as it is for a woman to wear men's clothing when it is cold.

I feel better in pants

ANSWER: This is a habit. Why not satisfy God in your body? Should a man who "feels better" wearing a dress wear a dress? Are we more concerned with how we feel, or what God says?

I don't show as much of my body if I wear pants

ANSWER: Either this lady doesn't know how to wear dresses (never been taught) or she is doing something that she shouldn't be doing in the first place. Many women say that their job requires them to wear pants so they will not reveal their flesh to coworkers. My answer, Why are they holding a job that would put them in that position? Why are they holding a public job? Why don't they work at home? Isn't working at home, work? Some women tell me they can't afford not to work. My answer, That is true for some, but not for the majority of women. They can't really afford to work. Financially, it just doesn't pay in the increase in expenses - clothes, baby-sitters, transportation, extra taxes, buying fast foods, etc., unless the woman has a "higher than normal" paying job. Besides, the responsibility is upon the husband to supply these things. Somebody is

supposed to be keepers at home, I Tim. 5:14, Titus 2:5, and that somebody is wives. Women are gradually taking the responsibility of taking care of the family away from men. Many men have gotten to the point they dare not say anything to the wife if they disagree with her. The wife has such a temper and can exhibit such coldness toward the husband that he finds it much easier not to try to be the head of the house. I am reminded of Proverbs 25:24 which proclaims, "*It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.*" Today if husbands would tell their wives to stop wearing pants and to wear dresses, there would be a "holy" war in most households. Many husbands have allowed their wives to have the authority for so long, there would be a real fight if he tried to take his rightful place in the home. I suppose many wives really are "wearing the pants in the home."

There are many more excuses (reasons to some) why women should wear men's clothing. But remember, God said it was an abomination.

I suppose this is a good place to talk about culottes. Webster's unabridged dictionary defines culottes as "knee-length trousers made full in the legs to resemble a skirt, worn by women and girls for sports, etc." They are actually *pants* (trousers) that are made to look like a skirt. If you will look at them, you will discover they have legs in them! A skirt or dress does not have legs.

Culottes used to be more like a skirt than they are today. Now they are no more than baggy shorts. If you made these "baggy shorts" a little shorter, you would have "hot pants"! Some years ago, "baggy shorts" were sewed a little tighter around the legs and called "pedal pushers." Do you see any similarity between shorts, baggy shorts (culottes) and pants? A really good way to tell if culottes are pants or not, is to look at your backside in the mirror.

The real shame of culottes is when a woman wears these when they know other women will be wearing pants. They are actually compromising what they believe because they don't want to stand out in the crowd.

The Bible is talking about wearing the proper clothing *at all times*. The Bible is not talking about wearing proper clothing while in worship services and then wearing whatever is desired at other times. Remember God not only sees you in worship services, He also sees you when you are *not* in worship services. You will be judged for everything you wear to worship services, and you will be judged for everything you wear while not in worship services.

Chapter II

Abomination To God

What does abomination mean? It means a very disgusting thing, A foul thing, refuse, trash, garbage, a thing more horrible than a sin. An abomination is a sin, and a trespass is a sin, but they reflect different degrees of sin. A trespass is against another person and can be a sin against God. A sin is against God and can be against another person. An abomination is against both man and God and is much more serious. If we categorized sins with a “small” sin being a “1” and a large sin being a “10,” an abomination would be at least an “11”! Leviticus 18 gives a list of abominations we are to avoid.

Now that I have gone through all that, and before I continue on the discussion of abominations, I want to say that sin is still sin. Murder is still murder, rebellion is still rebellion, and adultery is still adultery. There is a difference, however, in the **effect** of sin. In the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:27,28, Christ reveals the difference between **actual** adultery and **thinking** adultery. *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. Actual* adultery involves more than one person, while **thinking** adultery involves only one person. Both actual and thinking adultery is adultery, and will be judged as adultery. The effect, or consequence, of actual adultery is much greater than thinking adultery. Christ made this same distinction between **actual** murder and **thinking** murder in Matthew 5:21-26. Both actual murder and thinking murder is murder as far as God is concerned. All sin will be judged by the perfect judge, who is able to look into the heart as well as into the life.

Now, let’s continue on the Bible list of abominations.

Leviticus 18:6-19

Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of near of kin; (incest) father, mother, fathers wife, sister, granddaughter, daughter, aunt, uncle, daughter in law. Lev. 18:26 refers to the abominations in the preceding verses. These verses speak about uncovering the nakedness of near of kin in a sexual way. It is not speaking about fathers changing the diapers of his daughters, or mothers changing the diapers of their sons. It is not talking about a daughter taking care of her invalid dad, or a son taking care of his invalid mother. I personally believe it would be better for a son to take care of an invalid dad and a daughter to take care of an invalid mother, but this cannot always be.

Leviticus 18:20

Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her. It should be obvious to anyone that adultery is an abomination to God because it destroys the home, the family, the children in that home, and casts a bad influence on the institution of marriage. The ten commandments also contains a reference to purity in marriage. Exodus 20:14 states, *Thou shalt not commit adultery.* Ezekiel 22:11, and 33:26 speaks of God’s coming judgment upon Israel because they readily commit

adultery with their neighbor's wives.

Leviticus 18:21

And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD. The worshippers of Molech demanded that living children be sacrificed. Sometimes living children would be thrown on a red hot altar, and sometimes living children were killed, their blood drained and offered on an altar while the body was offered on a different altar. II Kings 16:3 relates that Ahaz was a king of Judah who offered some of his children on the altar to Molech. In Jeremiah 32:35, Jeremiah preaches about the wickedness of Judah in building places of worship for Molech and offering their children on its altars. Judah has faced the judgment of God because of their great wickedness.

Leviticus 18:22

Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. Leviticus 20:13 states, *If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.* I Kings 14:24 speaks about sodomites in the land of Israel, and that their lifestyle is an abomination to God. Their sins helped bring Israel to desolation. Men may accept homosexuality as "an alternate lifestyle," but God still says it is an abomination. The subject of this booklet is clothing, not homosexuality, but the two are closely linked. Wearing the clothing of the opposite sex is an abomination to God, just like homosexuality is an abomination to God! Men may accept the wrong clothing, but that doesn't mean that God has changed His mind about it. Remember, He is the final judge!

Leviticus 18:23

Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion. Sex between a human and an animal is certainly a gross abomination to God. It ought to be an abomination to every man.

The worship of graven images

Deuteronomy 7:25 and 26 states, *The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God.* 26 *Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.* Ezekiel 18:12 declares that those that lift up their eyes to idols have committed an abomination.

Offering an impure offering to God

Deuteronomy 17:1 states, *Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the LORD thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish, or any evilfavouredness: for that is an abomination unto the LORD thy God.* If God would not accept an animal that had a blemish, what makes us think He will accept us when we willingly disobey His Word?

Witchcraft

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 gives a list of what heathen nations did that caused God to drive them from their land. God will do the same thing to **any** nation that forgets God. *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.*

An Improper Offering

Deuteronomy 23:18 affirms that God will not accept an offering when the income is earned by illegal or unholy means. If something is an abomination, it cannot be “legalized” by giving an offering from that lifestyle. *Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God.* (The dog in this verse is a male prostitute.)

Marry, Divorce, Marry Again, Divorce, Then Remarry The First Spouse

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 states that it is an abomination for a man to marry a wife, divorce her and marry another, then to divorce his second wife and remarry the first wife. This abomination is not only against the people involved, but is a sin against the land. Malachi 2:11 reveals this is the sin of Judah, when she left God and worshipped idols. Then she tried to leave those idols and return to God. This is an abomination.

Unjust Dealings

Deuteronomy 25:13-16 states that unjust dealings is an abomination before God. True religion is more than “Sunday deep,” it involves the practicality of everyday living. Proverbs 11:1 states, *A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.* Proverbs 20:10 reveals, *Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD.* Proverbs 20:23 declares, *Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.*

Idols

Deuteronomy 27:15 states emphatically that any person who makes an image to be worshipped is an abomination to God. *Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen.*

The abominations of the heathen

There are numerous passages that reveal following the abominations of the heathen is an abomination. II Kings 16:3, 21:2, 11; II Chronicles 28:3, 33:2, 36:8,14; Ezra 9:1,11,14; Jeremiah 2:7, 6:15, 7:10, 8:12, 44:22; Ezekiel. 5:9,11, 7:3,4,8,9,20, 8:6,9,13,15,17, 9:4, 11:18,21, 12:16, 14:6, 16:2,22,36,43,47,50,51,58, 18:12,13,24, 20:4, 22:2, 23:36, 33:29, 43:8; 44:6,7,13. These abominations include the list of abominations in this study.

The froward

Proverbs 3:32 declares, *For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous.* Froward means to be perverse. Proverbs 11:30 reinforces this thought. *The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.*

Seven abominations

Proverbs 6:16-19 declares, *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*

The Life of the Wicked

Proverbs 15:8 and 9 declare that everything the wicked does, even his worship, is an abomination to God. *The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight. 9 The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.* Verse 26 proclaims, *The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words.* Proverbs 17:15 states *He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.* Proverbs 21:27 declares *The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?*

The Prayer of the Self Righteous

The prayer of one that won't hear God - Prov. 28:9 states that the prayer of the anti-nomian will not be heard by God. *He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.*

A Mixture of True and False Worship

In Isaiah 1:13, God condemns Israel for integrating false worship with true worship. This is an abomination to Him. *Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.*

Choosing Sin

Isaiah 41:24 declares that any person or nation who chooses Israel in their sinfulness is an abomination to God.

Conclusion

The above categories of nineteen things that are an abominations to God should be enough to make any spiritually minded person think. Wearing improper clothing is an abomination to God just like homosexuality, burning babies, committing adultery, and giving tithes from whoredom. Personally, I don't want to be included in that category. How about you?

If we would stop to consider what is really happening, today most people who call themselves saved and Christians don't really care what God wants them to do. They simply reason things out themselves. They wrongly suppose God will be satisfied with them. They presume everything they do will be accepted by God. They really don't understand the wickedness in their own hearts. Judges 17:6 and 21:25 reveals, *In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.* This is the day in which we live. By their actions, Christian people say there is no king reigning. Indeed, there is no king reigning in *their* hearts. They set *themselves* up to be the king. They need no other king but *themselves*, not even the Word of God. In Luke 18:11, the Pharisee stood in the temple of God and prayed, *God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.* The Pharisee made himself God and prayed to himself, consulting himself in his goodness. This is exactly what many people are doing today. Are you consulting God's Word for the answer, or are you consulting yourself, your friends, and your neighbors? You cannot consult both.

When Israel committed abominations before God, God did not bless them. So it is today. God's people have forsaken Him as the Lord of their lives, and God has practically quit blessing. Many of God's people are discouraged and depressed. Why? They really want the blessings of God. They really want to see people saved and to see God's work going forward: in somebody else.

If you really want to let God lead you, then let Him lead you according to the Word of God. Don't sit around and figure out what you think God would have you do. Use His Holy Word to find out what God would have you do. Then, and only then, will you be able to see God's blessings.

Chapter III

Deuteronomy 22:5

Let's take an eagle's eye view of Deuteronomy 22:5. First of all, *why* is this verse where it is? In other words, why doesn't this verse appear in chapter 23, or chapter 21 instead of chapter 22? Remember, God inspired the writers to write these things. They recorded God's thoughts as He gave them, and there is a definite logic in the sequence they were given.

Five Reasons For The Particular Location Of This Verse.

1. To teach us love for our neighbors and brothers in Christ.
2. That it may be well with thee.
3. That it may be well with thy neighbors.
4. That it may be well with thy seed (children).
5. Keep things equal.

(1) To teach us love for our neighbors and brothers in Christ.

Read Deut. 22:1-4 and notice the example of Christian neighborliness.

Thou shall not see thy brothers ox or his sheep go astray, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt in any case bring them again unto thy brother. {2} and if thy brother be not nigh unto thee, or if thou know him not, then thou shall bring it unto thine own house, and it shall be with thee until they brother seek after it, and thou shalt restore it to him again. {3} in like manner shalt thou do with his ass; and so shalt thou do with his raiment; and with all lost things of thy brother's, which he hath lost, and thou has found, shall thou do likewise: thou mayest not hide thyself. {4} Thou shall not see thy brother's ass or his ox fall down by the way, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt surely help him to lift them up again.

Deut. 22:5 then continues with the same general thought. In revealing our proper sex and knowing that God has given each sex a particular part to play in the scheme of life, we help our neighbors know the truth. Proper dress is just a small way that we are able to teach this lesson to our neighbors. I personally have no doubt that a woman wearing pants or a man wearing a dress can lead someone to the Lord. But that same person simply cannot teach that same person how to follow the Lord in His perfect holiness. They know nothing about the very elementary principles of following God. Some say clothes mean nothing, it's the desire of the heart that God sees. This is partly true. God does look at the true desire of the heart, but he also sees the works (clothing) of the body. This is revealed by the way God gave instructions to clothe the priests under the law. The high priest wore one type of clothing, the priests wore another type of clothing, and the Levities wore another type of clothing. Some would say, "But that's under the law." True, It's under the law. But remember, these people were saved **not** by keeping the law, but by the grace of God. These people served God, **not** by keeping the law, but by using the law to find out what God wanted them to do. The law of God revealed to them that they were not able to serve God **their** way. They must serve God **His** way. They read the law to find out what God required of them. Then they obeyed the commands of God,

trusting in the grace of God to be accepted of Him. Is this not what we do today?

(2) That it may be well with thee.

Everybody wants things to be well with them, but this often doesn't happen. Is there anything we can do to assure ourselves that things will go well with us? Yes, by following the commands of God, *He* will assure that things will go well with us. I do not mean to leave the impression that everything will go "good" with me if I am faithful to obey all of His commands. Bad things do happen to Godly people, but *...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose*, Romans 8:28. When bad things happen, Godly people can rest assured that God will use that bad thing for their good and His glory.

In Deut. 6:3, God told Israel how things could go well with them in the promised land, *Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.* All Israel had to do was obey the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments of God, Deut. 6:1. Unfortunately most people don't know the definition of the words "commandments," "statutes," and "judgments," much less to know what the commandments, statutes, and judgments of God are. Therefore, their lives are full of things that are not well with them. It is so important for Israel to obey the commandments of God that God repeats his promise in Deut. 6:17-19, *Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee. 18 And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, 19 To cast out all thine enemies from before thee, as the LORD hath spoken.*

Deut. 22:5 is a only a part of teaching how we may enjoy the blessings of God and things will go well with us. Deut. 22:6-9 reads, *If a bird's nest chance to be before thee in the way in any tree, or on the ground, whether they be young ones, or eggs, and the dam sitting upon the young, or upon the eggs, thou shalt not take the dam with the young: 7 But thou shalt in any wise let the dam go, and take the young to thee; that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days. 8 When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence. 9 Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled.*

God here instructs his people in a very simple thing that most of us have overlooked today. God teaches how things can go well with thee **and** how you can have a long life. Simply by not being greedy, and looking out for others, even though they are animals. Most people have forgotten this lesson today. We live in a "dog eat dog" world, a "rat race." We don't have time to be neighbors to each other. Parents don't have time for their children, or children for their parents. We don't have time to visit at church anymore. It's rush in and rush out. Hurry up and do something else.

God is here giving us a principle. Don't get in such a hurry that you can't help people. Slow down and enjoy the things God gives. Slow down and live. Slow down and enjoy life. Many times we wouldn't even see the little birds in our paths, much less take time

out to protect them. This scripture is not talking about the environmental extremists. It is talking about every saved individual taking care of the things of nature.

It is as “natural” for God to seek that which is good for his children as it is for parents to seek that which is good for their children. In Ruth 3:1, Naomi has adopted Ruth as her own daughter, and says to her, “...*My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, **that it may be well with thee?***” She went on to instruct Ruth how she could find the good things of life. Naomi advised Ruth to approach Boaz with the fact that he is the near kinsman. Boaz would understand that it was his responsibility to marry Ruth in order to produce an offspring for his near kinsman, Elimelech, who was Naomi’s husband. Ruth followed the advice of her mother in law and things went well with her. Ruth, a Moabitish woman, was included in the genealogy of Christ. If she had not followed Naomi’s advice, it follows that things would not be well with her, neither would she have been included in the genealogy of Christ. What the Bible is telling us is that good things (in the long run) happen to us when we obey God’s commandments.

Children have a special promise from God for their future well being and prosperity in this earth. Ephesians 6:1-3 declares, *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; 3 **That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*** This is exactly the opposite of children facing the condemnation and judgment of God as shown in the last part of Romans 1:30, and the beginning of verse 31. ...*disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding...* Many young people are facing this life without God, without a good future, without hope, and all because they have disobeyed the first commandment that comes with a promise. This is very sad, but it is even sadder to realize that most parents don’t know the promise of this commandment.

(3) That it may be well with thy neighbor.

Deut. 22:8. *When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence.*

These are very simple and very good instructions. Try to take care of the people around you. Wearing the proper clothing in the sight of God and our neighbors goes a long way toward stopping problems *before* they occur. Most of the time, we try to “shut the gate after the cows get out.” Let’s have a little foresight and shut the gate before the cows get out.

(4) That it may be well with thy seed (children).

Deut. 22:9 - *Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard be defiled.*

This is talking in particular about garden seeds, or seeds you would plant in the field. In order to keep the seeds pure, the plants must be kept to themselves. Any farmer knows this is so. In order to have the best seeds, you must have good plants. Over a period of time, you will have developed good seed. In order to have poor seeds, you let the plants go and pick your seed from the bad plants. Over a period of time, you’ll have developed very poor seeds.

But there is another kind of seed we ought to think about: our children. Many times in the Bible, our children are referred to as seeds. Therefore don't mix our children with the children of the world. The results will be extremely bad. This is exactly what happened in the days of Noah. The sons of God (saved people) looked upon the daughters of men (lost people), saw that they were beautiful and took them wives of all they chose. This is at least talking about the marriage of saved to lost. The result was that the children were mighty men that were of old, men of renown. God destroyed the world with water at that time because the seed had defiled themselves.

In Nehemiah 13:23-31, Nehemiah saw that the Jews had married wives of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. Their children spoke half in the speech of Ashdod, and half in the Jewish language. They mixed up the two languages to make their own language. This was such a terrible sin that Nehemiah *...contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.* It is the **mixture** that is a terrible sin.

The **mixture** of worldliness and Christianity is a terrible sin today. Most people do not think so. We are told, "Don't worry about it, it'll be all right." It won't be all right. Worldliness is a gross sin before Almighty God. And God will rightly judge this awful sin.

The world approves of whatever clothing people wear. The world says it doesn't matter what clothes a person wears. The world says it won't hurt. But it does hurt. What's worse, people claiming to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior reject what the Word of God says about clothing, and follow the leadership of the world. To these untutored "Christians," it makes no difference what God's Word says. What is important to these worldly "Christians" is what their friends and neighbors say. These "Christians" will take the counsel of their lost friends instead of the counsel and admonitions of their personal Saviour. They will follow the wisdom of their flesh and forsake the writings of God. The children of these worldly "Christians" will often follow their parents in the ways of the world, not knowing there is a better way. Many will marry a lost person and drop out of church. They could very well wind up in hell because they have never been taught the importance of a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This is very sad. But they'll never heed the quiet pleading cry of the blessed Holy Spirit of God as He instructs in proper Christian living. Their spirits cannot accept this truth, instead they want something modern enough to please their lost friends and "religious" enough to please God, and something that they can live with without being a "religious fanatic." I'm just about to believe that the only real Christian is a "religious fanatic"!!

(5) Keep things equal - Deut. 22:10-12

Deut. 22:10 reads, *Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.* Why? The difference is power. The ox is an entirely different animal than the ass. Plowing with an ox and an ass might get the job done, but it'll be a lot more difficult than it ought to be. Besides, plain old common sense tells you it's not the thing to do. Our common sense tells us there is a difference in the clothing of men and women. But if we listen to the

voices of our lost friends, who are lead by Satan, the prince and power of the air, we will finally follow them. Aren't saved supposed to lead lost people to Christ? Are saved people supposed to follow lost people away from God?

Deut. 22:11 states, *Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, as of woollen and linen together.* Why? These garments are different, and should not be mixed. The source of the material is different. The preparation of the thread is different. The sewing of the fabrics is different. The cleaning of the cloth is different. The shrinkage is different. The dyeing of the material is different. The purpose of the garment is different. Just about everything between the two materials is different. Why in the world would anybody want to mix the two kinds of material and make one article of clothing? Again, common sense tells us not to do it. If it's so ridiculous to mix the two kinds of material, why did God give commandment for them not to be mixed? Because of human nature. Mankind is sinful and will always do the wrong thing. Mankind will always go against the commandments of God if given half a chance. An article of clothing can be made from the two diverse materials, but when it gets dirty and is washed, it either won't come out clean or part of the material is shrunk more than the other. Then the garment will not look right, it will not fit right, it simply isn't right.

Saved people can indeed wear the clothing of the opposite sex. But that doesn't make it right. Not in the long run. It may not look so bad now, but it will not work out in the long run. It is an abomination unto the lord thy God. Wearing the wrong clothing will always lead to more worldliness and will help promote homosexuals and all kinds of wicked behavior.

Deut. 22:12 declares, *Thou shalt make thee fringes upon the four quarters of thy vesture, wherewith thou coverest thyself.* Why? And what are the fringes?

First - why? Numbers 15:37-41 states, *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye used to go a whoring: That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God. I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the Lord your God.* This passage speaks for itself.

What is a fringe? The fringes are simply a "hem" put on the edges of the cloth so that it won't unravel. This shows a very important truth. Things ought to stay the same as God first meant them to be. Times may change, but our Christianity should never change. Just because we have electricity and automobiles, telephones, radios and televisions doesn't mean that we should forsake the ways of God. We ought to use these things to give God glory. May God help us!!

The ribband of blue, as described in Numbers 15:38, is simply a thread of blue running through the hem. Not something conspicuous that other people will notice, but something small and personal. A reminder for the wearer only. This is the way our religion should be. Not something conspicuous, but real true heart felt religion that

constantly reminds us how great our savior is and how we are sinners, and need to be reminded to do his commands. Obeying Christ has never come automatic for me. I need constant reminding, and then I go aside so very easily.

Our clothing is this same type of daily reminder that we all need so desperately. We are involved so much in the world, and this of necessity. We need to remember by our clothing that we are different from the world.

Chapter IV

The Question Of “Legalism”

The word “legalism” doesn’t appear in the entire Bible, so it is difficult to come up with a proper scriptural definition of the word. Websters dictionary defines “legalism” as a strict or literal adherence to the law or to a particular moral code, as of religion or morality. It seems to me that some people define legalism as being forced to do what the law of God commands us to do, instead of doing what the law of God commands out of love.

Under the Law

There are several scriptures which speak of “under the law.” What does it mean to be “under the law?” The majority of these verses are as follows:

1. Rom 3:19 - *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*
2. Rom 6:14-15 - *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. {15} What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*
3. Gal 3:23 - *But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.*
4. Gal 4:4-5 - *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, {5} To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*
5. Gal 4:21-22 - *Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? {22} For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.*
6. Gal 5:18 - *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*

These passages all have a common thread. These verses and the context of these verses speak of people trying to work their way into the favor of God. Some of these verses speak about lost people trying to do something so God will save them, while other of these verses speak of saved people trying to do something so God will favor them. Both of these two groups are wrong.

If, and I say *if*, the context of the above passages is carefully considered, it will soon be discovered that Christian living is **not** the subject. **Salvation** is the subject.

Stop right here. Reread the preceding paragraph. If you don’t understand what the preceding paragraph says, please read it again. It is very, very important to understand that when the Bible speaks about being “under the law,” it is speaking about being lost. When the Bible speaks about being under grace, it is speaking about the condition of being saved.

Galatians 3:21 states, *Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.* This verse teaches very plainly that the law of God was never intended to save anyone, but if there was a law that could save everyone, that law is the law of

God. The law of God sounds like a perfect law to me.

The law was given so we would be able to see our sinfulness before God. Paul said in Romans 7:7, *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.* It is very interesting to note that the law of God works on the spirit of man, bringing condemnation. This is what the law did to Paul. The law of God showed Paul the inward secret sin of lust, or covetousness. The law against covetousness is the only completely inward sin mentioned in the ten commandments.

Questions about “legalism”

If a saved person wants to please God, how do they do it? What commands, or laws, do they follow? Should a person make up their own set of rules when they follow God?

If a person makes up their own set of rules, isn't that the same thing that happened during the times of the judges when this statement appears, *In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes*, Judges 17:6. Judges 21:25 states exactly the same thing, *In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.* Deut. 12:8 asserts, *Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes.* Proverbs 21:2 declares, *Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.* These passages make it abundantly clear that God doesn't want a person making up his own set of rules. The main question I am asking: Is it “legalism” to obey the laws and commands of God, even the ten commandments?

At this point, we can understand that there is a certain “spiritual attitude” involved. If I keep the laws and commandments of God in order that He accept me, that is wrong. It is “legalism.” If I keep the laws and commandments of God because He has already accepted me, and I keep those commandments out of love, that is not “legalism.”

Every person, lost or saved, will be judged by the Bible -- the revealed will of God. No person will be judged by the laws of men, or “tradition.”

Many people today believe that the keeping of the law is for another dispensation, that the law is not applicable to saved people, that the law has been done away with. These same people will fervently declare that love overcomes everything, that love is the entire basis of Christian fellowship, both with men and with God. Guess what? They are right. ***Love is the key!***

Matthew 22:34-40 gives the story of the lawyer who came to Christ, asking him, ...*Which is the greatest commandment in the law?* Jesus answered, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.* There can be no doubt that the greatest commandment is to love God first, then to love everybody else with that same “Agape” love.

I Corinthians 13 confirms that love is the greatest spiritual gift there is. Verses 1-3 of that chapter states, *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not*

charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. All the work in the world is nothing if it isn't done with the pure agape love of God. There can be no thought of reward or recognition. The work must be done out of love, nothing else will do.

The church at Ephesus had left their first love. Christ spoke to that local church in Revelation 2:4, *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.* This church was doctrinally sound. They had worked long and hard, without fainting. They had tried those that said they were apostles and found them to be liars. When a church loses their love for God, they lose it all, regardless of how doctrinally sound they are, or how many “good works” they do.

In the sermon on the Mount, Christ gave what is now called “The Golden Rule.” We say it like this – Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Christ, in Matt. 7:12, said it like this, *Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.* Please notice that the Golden Rule is the law and the prophets. Love for God and love and concern for our fellow man causes us to fulfill “The Golden Rule.” Love hasn't caused the law and the prophets to be done away with, but love causes us to fulfill the law and the prophets through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour!

The Love of God causes us to keep God's commandments

I John 5:1-4 states, *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.* These verses make some very interesting statements. Verse one declares that whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, that is, saved. Every person that is saved loves the One who saved him, plus that saved person loves all those that are saved. Verse two explains how the saved can know they love the children of God – when they love God and keep the commandments of God. Verse three continues this explanation, revealing what the love of God is – keeping the commandments of God, and the commandments are not grievous, burdensome, weighty, difficult, or disturbing. Verse four adds that whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world, and it is faith which overcomes the world. These are very startling statements indeed! These verses emphatically declare that truly saved people not only love God, they love the commandments of God! Truly saved people love to keep the commandments of God! The world, and all its wickedness and sinfulness, is overcome by faith.

Romans 10:17 declares, *Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.* Where does faith come from? From hearing and believing the Word of God. The more the Word of God is heard, the more word of God is known, therefore, faith is increased.

James 1:22-24 proclaims, *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.* These verses are clear commands that believers be, not only a **hearer** of the Word, but a **doer** of the Word.

Philippians 2:12 and 13 emphatically states *...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure.* In other words, I should work my salvation out from my spirit (where no man can see) and into my body (which every man can see). The motivating behind my working my salvation out is that God is working inside me (where no man can see) in two areas of my life (which every man can see): my performing His revealed will, and whatever else He determines. The entire lesson is the law hasn't been done away with, I fulfill the law through Christ, whom I serve by love and faith.

Saved people love the commandments (law) of God. This fact cannot be stated emphatically enough, or often enough. It is by obeying the commandments of God that saved people are able to overcome the world, the sin in the world, and the natural inclination to sin in their own bodies.

“Legalism” in the Old Testament

Is there such a thing as “legalism” in the Old Testament? Why, sure there is. There are people today who are trying to be saved, or trying to get on the good side of God by keeping the law. This same type of person existed in the Old Testament.

David makes this abundantly clear in Psalms 51:16-19 when he declares, *For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. 18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.*

In this passage, David is praying to God for forgiveness of his sin with Bathsheba and the subsequent murder of Uriah. David states that God doesn't want a sacrifice. God doesn't want David to kill some animal and pour its blood on the altar, therefore allowing God to forgive him. God will forgive David, **then** David will be able to offer an acceptable sacrifice.

It is very important to understand that Old Testament forgiveness and New Testament forgiveness is the same. God is the same in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. People are the same in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Sin is the same in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Salvation is the same in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Service is the same in the Old Testament and in the New Testament: through faith.

Chapter V

Conclusion

In closing, I want to say that I do not want anybody wearing a certain type of clothing just because I say so. I don't want women wearing dresses because I think they should. I don't want men wearing pants because I think they should. There is a much higher reason. Do it because **God said so**. I really don't want you following me **only**. Follow me if I'm following Christ. Follow me even if you disagree with me; **if** I'm following Christ. But make sure you follow *Christ*.

Second, most people say that Deuteronomy 22:5 is in the Old Testament, therefore we don't need to heed its precepts. This reasoning is simply a ploy that people use because they don't want to obey the Word of God. They've already made up their mind and will not listen to any authority except themselves. Think on this: Genesis is also in the Old Testament, yet we discover many doctrines in that book of beginnings. I Corinthians 10:11 clearly states, *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come*. Proverbs 26:16 rightly states, *The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason*.

Third, many say Deuteronomy 22:5 is under the law and they don't want to be under the law. They say they're under grace and not under the law. This is a very strange thing! They're under grace, therefore don't need the laws of God? How will they know what sin is if they don't know the laws of God? I John 3:4 positively states, *...sin is the transgression of the law*. Romans 6:1 and 2 declares *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?* Many say it's what is in your heart that counts. They conclude that anything you do is all right as long as your heart is right. I have heard people actually say (one was a Sunday School teacher) that absolutely anything you did was all right as long as your heart was right. This included drinking alcohol, smoking, adultery, fornication, fighting, anything. This logic is evidently very, very wrong. Interestingly, *lawlessness* results when men do not obey the law of Christ. Lawlessness is also a sign of the end days.

I don't want to be under the law, and I don't want you to be under the law. I am not under the law, but under grace. I long to serve my Saviour more and more every day. I search God's Word and my own heart daily to discover how I can serve Him more and more. I find that I am a saved, wicked sinner, and need God desperately. As a saved sinner, I call out to Him to help me live acceptably before Him. This He does, as a matter of grace and not because I have done anything to be accepted. He accepted me because He loves me. Even when I do the best I can, it still won't be acceptable to God. Why? If I do it in the strength of my flesh, God will not accept it. Only those things I do in **Him** strength will be accepted by Him. So, I wear the proper clothing for my sex. This does not make me special or acceptable before God. He accepts me by His own grace. My wearing proper clothing shows others that I am, at the very least, trying to please my Saviour. I am not trying to compromise with the world. I place **Him** above my friends. I

place **His will** above the opinions of my friends or the fashion designers. It reveals my faith in God. People who refuse to obey God by wearing the proper clothing for their sex, reveal they are putting more faith in the words of the world than in the words of Jesus Christ.

The argument that we now live under the dispensation of grace, making God's law inapplicable to us doesn't stand up. Has God voided all the abominations of the Old Testament? These are listed in chapter II of this paper. God has condemned homosexuals under the law. Are they now (under grace) allowed by God to practice their sinfulness without any repercussions of health or judgments from God? No, they are still very gross sinners in the eyes of God. What about uncovering nakedness? Since we are living in the "dispensation of grace" and are not living "under the law," is that still an abomination before God? Uncovering nakedness is still an abomination before God, isn't it? This same principle will apply to all the other abominations listed in the Bible. God has not "revised" the abomination list, but they remain the same, because God remains the same. Read again the list of abominations in chapter II and see if God will accept any of these awful sins. Why will we say that all of those sins are still an abomination before God -- except Deut. 22:5?!?!?

Wearing the clothing of the opposite sex is still an abomination in the eyes of God!

Brethren, think on these things!