

The Old Paths

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“The Best Dressed People In The Church”

Jarrold Jacobs

Various magazines often print issues where they discuss the “best and worst dressed” people. Often, they focus upon movie stars, and other entertainers and what they are or are not wearing in Hollywood. Did you know that God wants His people to be clothed a certain way? He wants us clothed in a certain way not only physically (I Tim. 2:9-10; I Pet. 3:2-4), but spiritually. How can we know who the best dressed people in the sight of God are? The Bible reveals this answer to us. The best dressed people in the church will be:

Clothed With Humility

Peter said, *“Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble”* (I Pet. 5:5). Humility ought to be like a covering over us — where all aspects of our lives can be described as humble. In the Old Testament, Solomon taught that humility comes before honor (Prov. 16:18-19)! It is important that we get things in the right order, because destruction will come to those who are not humble (Prov. 15:33; 18:12)! Nebuchadnezzar understood that God is *“able to abase ... those that walk in pride”* (Dan. 4:37). Jesus said, *“And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted”* (Matt. 23:12). Notice what the apostle Peter said will happen if we humble ourselves right now.

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” (I Pet. 5:6). If we humble ourselves in the presence of God now, the exaltation will come. Too many believe that they must exalt themselves in the eyes of men right now. Jesus dealt with those who tried this. He said that they have their reward (Matt. 6:2, 5, 16). Are you clothed with humility?

Clothed As Described In Colossians 3:12

When the apostle Paul wrote the Colossian Christians, he listed the things that must be put off, and the things to put on. Let us read what he said: *“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering”* (Col. 3:12). Let us take some time to study the characteristics that ought to be a part of each Christian’s life. Following the verse, we see “mercy” as the first characteristic. “Mercy” is a necessary part of our life and demands that we first have wisdom from above (Jas. 3:17). Next, “kindness” is a necessity in society today. More importantly, it is something we need to add to our faith (II Pet. 1:7). Third, we know that being “humble” was discussed already, but Colossians 3:12 shows us that humility needs to be put on in order to please God. It will not do for a Christian to be proud or arrogant and trusting in his/her own wisdom (Prov. 23:4). Let us show that humility of mind in our words and in our actions. “Meekness” is something lacking in the lives of many

today. Meekness is, “that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting, closely linked to the word ‘humility’ and follows directly upon it....” (Vine’s, p. 737-738). In other words, meekness is not weakness! It has commonly been defined as “strength under control.” God directs our lives, and so we use our strength to faithfully obey His will. In the New Testament, we learn that the fruit of the Spirit is “meekness” (Gal. 5:23)! This ought to give us some idea of the importance God places upon meekness. Finally, “longsuffering” is something we all need. The Galatians were told that the fruit of the Spirit includes “longsuffering,” just as it included meekness. (Gal. 5:22). Knowing that God has always been longsuffering toward us should motivate us to be longsuffering with others (I Pet. 3:20; II Pet. 3:9).

Clothed With The Whole Armor Of God

Finally, the apostle Paul teaches us that a necessity for clothing the spiritual man is putting on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:13-17). Without having the protection of God’s armor, we are vulnerable to Satan’s onslaught (I Pet. 5:8). Please read these verses and notice that there is no armor for the back! God wants His children to stand strong for the Truth, not backslide during hard times! If Heaven is our goal, we must clothe ourselves with the whole armor of God Almighty!

Conclusion

Clothing our spiritual life with these qualities will produce the best dressed people in the church! What have we done to apply these things to our lives?

How are you dressed?

The Following Is A Poem By Kelsey Harris ...

I like to be by myself, but I can't stand being alone.

I love the dark, but I hate not being able to see.

I enjoy meeting new people, but I hate being with strangers.

I want my voice to be heard, but I despise talking loud.

I want to be in a hall of fame, but I don't like being the center of attention.

I want to have my most complicated problems solved, but I don't want complicated answers.

I want to always be healthy, but not have to take medicine.

The answer: GOD!

With God, I can be away from the world, by myself, but not be alone, for He is with me.

With God, I can be in the dark, be blind, but see more than people of this world can.

With God, I can meet new people, but they won't be strangers, because they are children of God, just like me.

With God, my voice can be heard even when I whisper.

With God, I can enter His hall of fame, but not deal with the pressure of earthly fame.

With God, I can have even my most complicated problems solved with a simple answer.

With God, I can have an incurable disease, yet be healthy in what matters most.

WITHOUT GOD, I will be with the world, and be totally alone.

Without God, I will walk around with my eyes wide open, but not see as much as the Christian blind man sees.

Without God, I will meet all the people in the world, but they will always be strangers.

Without God, I will have to raise my voice as loud as I can to be heard, but still not be heard when it matters most.

Without God, I will have work extremely hard to get into a worldly hall of fame, but not get into the highest one.

Without God, my most complicated problems, can't be solved, and the attempts will be so complicated, I won't understand them.

Without God, I will have to take pill after pill, but will always be incurably sick.

With God, I can achieve anything. Without God, I will achieve nothing.

What's your choice?

Editor's Note:

Kelsey Harris is a young lady from Jonesboro, Arkansas, who has been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. I read this poem and thought it was something our dear readers would like to read as well. Please note the calm assurance and faith expressed by this 15 year-old Christian as she speaks of the great contrast of life when one is "with God" and when one is "without God." It certainly makes all of us think. For more on this contrast between living "with God/Christ" and living "without God/Christ," read Ephesians 1-2.

Kelsey is currently undergoing chemo treatments and the like for her brain tumor. (Did you catch the part in the poem about her "taking pills" and having an "incurable disease"?) She is certainly a brave girl with a lot of faith in God. Write her:

**Kelsey Harris
1516 Paragould Dr.
Jonesboro, AR 72401**

Please remember to keep her and her family in your prayers at this time. Also, pray for the dr.'s and nurses who are caring for her during this hard time. (James 5:16)

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