

Cornerstone Connection

Thinking Biblically by Bill Moore

A New Year—Thinking about . . . Clothes?

Okay, this is an odd article, but I figured I would be safer writing it now than when the weather gets warmer!

I've been intrigued by the Amish for years. There is something about their lifestyle that resonates with me. Perhaps it's their simple way of living that seems appealing, a life without the constant barrage of information and entertainment (so much noise!).

Amish are easily identified—their clothing is a dead giveaway. Simplicity and modesty, perhaps to a fault, characterize their clothes.

While I'm not suggesting that believers need to hearken after Amish attire, I do think believers ought to recognize that their clothes say a lot about them. That our culture has become too complacent about clothing has become evident even to secular folks.

Major League Baseball has become the first professional league in North America to issue dress guidelines for media members. According to the Associated Press, "The media should dress 'in an appropriate and professional manner' with clothing proper for a 'business casual work environment' when in locker rooms, dugouts, press boxes and on the field, the new MLB guidelines say. Banned are sheer and see-through clothing, ripped jeans, one-shouldered, strapless shirts or clothing exposing bare midriffs. Also listed are 'excessively short' skirts, dresses or shorts cut more than 3-4 inches above the knee"

(http://espn.go.com/mlb/story/_/id/7325383/mlb-bans-visible-undergarments-muscle-shirts-more-dress-code-media-members).

The ideas of modesty and appropriateness have been lost in our society, and our church culture experiences the same loss. Folks think little about the seriousness of worship, and it shows when they enter the worship center on Sunday morning wearing shorts and flip-flops during the warmer weather months. Some defend such attire (or lack of it!) by saying that God looks on the heart. "Where in the Bible does it say that men have to wear a three-piece suit and tie and women have to wear ankle-length dresses?" Have you ever noticed how persons will go to extremes to justify their negligence? The issue isn't suits and ties and ankle-length dresses. The issue is appropriateness. Worship is serious business. It doesn't require a certain style of dress. Ties are not mandatory, but surely flip flops and shorts are hardly proper attire for the serious business of worship.

What about our day-to-day clothing? Are appropriateness and modesty evident? Unfortunately, many girls and women, even professing Christians, allow the fashion of the day dictate their clothing choices. The apostle Paul gave this instruction: "Likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control" (1 Timothy 2:9a).

Concerning the Greek word translated as "modesty" in 1 Timothy 2:9, Mary Kassian writes, "[It] means that you choose clothes that are decent in His eyes . . . not clothes that are provocative, seductive, and that honor nakedness. When you dress decently, you recognize that God ordained clothes to cover, and not draw attention to, your naked skin. You cover up out of respect for Him, the gospel, your Christian brothers—and out of respect for who He made you to be. Decency means you agree with the Lord about the true purpose of clothing and set aside your self-interest to dress in a way that exalts Christ." She provides this practical advice: "So in that dressing room trying on that skirt, take time to sit, bend, and stretch in front of that mirror, and ask yourself, Is this skirt decent? Does it do what it should do? Does it properly cover me up? Does it showcase my underlying nakedness—or exalt the gospel of Christ?"

(<http://www.girlsgonewise.com/what-not-to-wear/>).

Likening inner vices and virtues to our outer clothes, Paul writes, "Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. . . . Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:9-10, 12-14). What we are on the inside is more important than what we wear on the outside, but what we wear on the outside should not contradict what we are on the inside. Our clothes are not what we are, but our clothes tell a lot about us.

Monthly projects

United Ministries continues to distribute food to needy families in our community. Cornerstone is asked to provide flour, sugar and peanut butter. Remember to pick-up one or more of these items the next time you are in the grocery store.

Don't forget to save empty inkjet printer cartridges, old cell phones, Campbell Soup and Tyson Chicken labels, and Box Tops for Education found on General Mills products for Laurens Academy.

The Laurens Baptist Association helps families in need and in crisis situations. We can help by donating the requested items each month.

Crisis Center needs for January are:
soup, canned meat, canned fruit

Baskets are outside the church office for collection of monthly project items.

John Mark Sheppard will speak at the January 29, evening service.

John Mark and Sara Sheppard are preparing to serve as missionaries in Liberia, West Africa with SIM. John-Mark grew up as a missionary kid in West Africa and returned to Liberia to work with Samaritan's Purse after college. Sara grew up in Wisconsin and visited Liberia twice on short-term missions trips. They hope to work among the unreached Many people group, helping new believers grow in their faith through discipleship, leadership training, and scripture resource development.

Woman on Mission
will meet on Monday, January 16,
at 7:00 PM at the church.

The tables in the fellowship hall are being replaced. Contributions are being accepted to help cover the cost. If you would like to help with this project, please mark your donation *for tables*.

January Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Mary Littleton | 3 |
| Sydney Fisher | 5 |
| Thomas Dailey | 9 |
| Reles Littleton | 12 |
| Beth French | 14 |
| Sara Adkins | 16 |
| Mike Davis | 17 |
| Pat Patterson | 19 |
| Todd Kirk | 29 |



Inclement weather:

Any changes to the church schedule will be recorded on the church answering system. Call **833-1777** to listen to the message for information of any time change or cancellation.

Don't forget that the monthly financial reports will be on the table in the narthex on Wednesdays after the first of each month.

The reports are also available in the church office at any time.

Dear Cornerstone family,
To worship and serve our Lord in such a spirit of love and unity as we have at Cornerstone is truly a blessing. Thank you for the Christmas gift. I thank God for such a family as you.

Your sister,
Claire

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. It is a truly blessing to be a part of the fellowship of believers at Cornerstone.

Ronnie

Many thanks to our Cornerstone family for the very generous Christmas gift. I am continually grateful to God for the opportunity to be an integral part of this church, as well as the support and freedom to seek to be faithful to the Scriptures.

Bill

Thank you so much for the generous gift at Christmas. Your generosity and also your support during the year is greatly appreciated. It is a blessing to be a part of the Cornerstone family.

Love,
Linda

Cornerstone,

We want to thank you for all of the planning and effort that went into the baby shower, as well as for all of those who came to celebrate with us. You have been a true family to us as we are starting our own family.

Love,
Courtney and Matt

Hi Pastor Bill and Cornerstone Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for your monthly contribution to Partners In Missions, International. Your faithful giving is helping to meet serious needs in Romania and in the life of PIMI. We could not continue impacting Romania without people and churches giving to this ministry. We appreciate your loving support both in the arena of giving and in praying. Please keep doing both as we not only need finances, we need your faithful praying for us.

The November project was wonderful as we saw people come to Christ. Many boys and girls were ministered to in our Kids Klubs and my wife and two other team members ministered to ladies in the village of Ceica. Never before had we this type of ministry but it was well attended by many ladies from Ceica and the surrounding area. Our plans are to return in November, 2012 for another Women's Conference, led by Yvonne.

Our next project is February 4-13, 2012. This project is strictly evangelistic. It's still time for you to go with us. The cost of the project will be approximately \$2000. Call or email for other details. I need a good photographer to go with us and I also need a Kids Klub leader and helpers. Pray about going and being salt and light to the precious people of Romania.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!
Bob and Yvonne Ward

Updates from missionary friends:

Here are some latest news, we have a baby now. On 15th December at 15.00, our Phillip was born. So now we have two boys, Robert 4 years old and Phillip, 3 days old. We praise God for a health baby. Olga needed a surgical intervention after, but doctor said that may be in three months she will be recovered. Pray for her to be healed. We trust in God because He sent already good doctor to take care of that and she is on the right way for good healing. Blessings!

Gelu & Olga Ciorna
Cahul, Moldova

Peter and Sharon McMillan in Madrid, Spain

www.psmcmillan.blogspot.com

Craig and Ava Cook in Spain

email the cooks at

craig.cook@worldteam.org and ask to be included on their email newsletter list

Paul and Elvie Barner in Philippines

www.barner.org

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[Carolina Commentary]