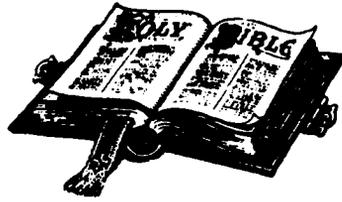


THE INSTRUCTOR



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

Volume 27

October, 1990

Number 10

PROPER CLOTHING (No. 2)

In our last article we indicated that for apparel to be **proper clothing** it must not be "costly array" nor "lascivious attire" (1 Tim. 2:9; Gal. 5:19-21). **Proper clothing** "adorns" or beautifies and should never appear "effeminate" for the man nor "masculine" for the woman (1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Cor. 6:9). In this article we will be considering clothing that blurs and breaks down the distinction between the sexes.

We raise the question, what is the most **distinguishable** mark of dress between the male and female in our society today? In James Laver's book, **Modest in Dress**, pages 180, 181, he said, "Since the Middle Ages the **bifurcated garment** has been the mark of the male and the **skirt** the mark of the female." "The **dress/skirt** and the **suit** were established as suitable modes of dress for segregating the sexes at the end of the 17th century, and **little has changed since.**" (**Components of Dress**, page 85, by Ash & Wright). So, when we consider the voluntary acknowledgements from these and other clothing historians, clothing critics, fashion designers and even the "radical" dress reformers (the experts in costume), they tell us that **pants** in our society today are **masculine** and have been considered so for **hundreds of years**. Therefore,

pants for women have not had time to take on much independent meaning and thus the pants still have the strongest association as being male attire.

Is it Scriptural for women in our society today to wear pants? First of all, most of the pants worn by women today are "too tight" and thus are unscriptural on the basis of being **lascivious dress** (Gal. 5:19). Secondly, the goal of the **Unisex** movement is to bring humanity to the point that there is no distinguishing factor between men and women in the home, in church work, in the business world and in appearance. The "sexless dress" is but one step in many in their effort to accomplish dissexualization. Since men are much slower to change dress styles, unisex dress is usually seen when women invade the masculine wardrobe and wear **pants**. The **uniform** for the present day Women's Rights Movement which aspires to removing many God-given distinctions between the sexes, including dress, is **pants**. In the third place, Christians must become aware of "cross-over" dress (transvestism). While we most often view transvestism as that of homosexuals (males dressing like females and vice versa) such clothes can also be seen as a result of "fads" and peer pressure. We notice

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THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

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

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

Second-class postage paid in Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

1 JOHN 1:7 —

WHAT IS NOT TAUGHT?

What is or is not taught in 1 John 1:7 has been (and still is) the focus of much discussion and many articles written in recent years. It seems that some brethren are willing to **carefully examine** what is **not** in 1 John 1:7. The passage reads as follows:

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

We should be careful as we study this passage (as well as all others) and make sure that we do **not** say that this text teaches something that it does **not** teach. Let's not assume too much. Here are some things that 1 John 1:7 does **not** teach.

1. GOD IS IN DARKNESS! **Note:** This verse says that **“He (God-CRS) is in the light.”**

2. JESUS CHRIST IS NOT THE SON OF GOD! **Note:** This verse says, **“ . . . Jesus Christ his Son . . . ”**

3. FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IS UNCONDITIONAL! **Note:** This verse says that one must **“walk in the light, AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT”** in order to have this fellowship. Hence, it is conditional!

4. CLEANSING FROM SIN BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS UN-

CONDITIONAL! **Note:** This verse says: **“IF we walk in the light, as he is in the light, . . . the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”** Hence, we see that it is conditional!

5. SOME SINS ARE IN THE LIGHT AND OTHERS ARE IN DARKNESS! **Note:** This verse does **not** include sins (darkness) of any kind! All sin is **darkness!** (See Isa. 5:20; Rom. 13:12; Eph. 5:11; 2 Cor. 6:14; 1 John 2:9-11).

6. **“WALKING IN THE LIGHT” DOES NOT INCLUDE REPENTANCE, CONFESSION OF SINS AND PRAYER!** **Note:** Surely repentance, confession of sins and prayer are conditions of pardon for God's children when they sin as set forth in God's Word (which is light) in Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9 & James 5:16. These conditions of pardon are **not** works of darkness, are they?

7. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST CLEANSSES GOD'S CHILDREN OF SINS COMMITTED THROUGH IGNORANCE AND/OR WEAKNESS WITHOUT REPENTANCE, CONFESSION OF SINS AND PRAYER. **Note:** This verse says **“ALL sin.”** There is no distinction made in sins in the passage. Either **“all sin”** is cleansed by the blood of Christ without repentance, confession of sins and prayer or NO sin is so cleansed.

8. REPENTANCE IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO CLEANSING BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST! **Note:** This verse does **not** contradict Acts 8:22 that indicates the **“repentance”** IS **essential** to cleansing by the blood. Simon, a child of God who sinned through ignorance and/or weakness, was told to **“REPENT therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.”**

9. CONFESSION OF SINS IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO CLEANSING BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST!

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1 JOHN 1:7 — WHAT IS NOT TAUGHT

(Continued from page 3)

Note: This verse does **not** contradict 1 John 1:9 that says: "IF we CONFESS OUR SINS, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (Also see James 5:16). **Further note:** If "sins of ignorance and weakness" is included in "all unrighteousness" it is obvious that "confession of sins" is essential to being cleansed from such sins.

10. PRAYER IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO CLEANSING BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST! **Note:** This verse does **not** contradict Acts 8:22 and James 5:16 that teach that "prayer" IS essential to being cleansed by the blood.

11. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST AUTOMATICALLY CLEANSSES GOD'S PEOPLE OF THE SINS THEY COMMIT EITHER THROUGH IGNORANCE OR WEAKNESS! **Note:** A person must be "big" on assumptions to get such an idea as this from this passage. There is **no evidence of this at all!** 1 John 1:9 plainly teaches that a **confession of sins IS A CONDITION** of cleansing.

12. CONTINUOUS CLEANSING BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST OF SINS COMMITTED THROUGH IGNORANCE OR WEAKNESS ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO REPENTANCE, CONFESSION OF SINS AND PRAYER. **Note:** There is simply **no evidence** that such is the case. Besides, this idea would contradict such passages as Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9 and James 5:16.

13. IF A PERSON IS LIVING A GENERAL LIFE OF FAITHFULNESS, THE BLOOD OF CHRIST WILL CLEANSE HIM FROM HIS SINS "EVEN AS HE SINS." **Note:** An assumption! A person who thinks this verse teaches such is in need of a lot of help. There is **no evidence whatever** that such is taught in this passage!

OBSERVATIONS

1. We should be careful **not** to take

away from what 1 John 1:7 says. Neither should we be guilty of **taking away** from what God says in other passages! We must respect, accept and teach what ALL other passages say including Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9 and James 5:16.

2. We should be careful **not** to **add** to what God says in 1 John 1:7 and **all** other passages! We should keep in mind that "**The SUM of thy (God's — CRS) word is truth: . . .**" (Psa. 119:160 ASV).

3. We should be careful **not** to **substitute** for what God says in 1 John 1:7. **For example:** We must **not** substitute "**sins of ignorance and/or weakness**" for the expression, "**ALL SIN.**"

4. 1 John 1:7 does **not** teach "**constant cleansing**" of any other kind of sins. The verse **plainly says:** "**ALL SIN.**" That is inclusive of what some call "high-handed" or "rebellious" sins!

5. There can be unity of teaching on 1 John 1:7 as long as we all stay with what the text **actually** says (as well as all other passages) when we discuss it. (CRS)

"TCH" — A BIG BUSINESS

According to the "**Financial Report**" for the fiscal year that ended in 1988, "THE TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOME" of Spring Hill, TN had a total income available to care for children of **\$729,722.00 WITHOUT funds from churches.** These funds came from Individuals, Child Support, Coin Campaign, Food Drive, Interest, Farm, Misc. and Endowment Income. Since "TCH" cared for **70 children** that year, they had available **\$10,424.00 per child WITHOUT receiving ONE CENT from churches!** However, they **did** receive **\$304,539.00** from churches. This amounts to **\$4,350.00 per child they received from churches!** This made a total of **\$1,034,261.00** available to care for **70 children** or **\$14,475.00 per child.** However this was **not** enough to get the job done! "TCH" spent another **\$40,290.00** or **\$2,004.00 per child!** They spent a total of **\$1,174,551.00** or **\$16,779.00 per child** and ended up with a **deficient of \$10,290.00** — and so they are still begging churches for contributions!

— Yes, BIG BUSINESS INDEED!

(CRS)

PROPER CLOTHING (No. 2)

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this "cross-over" dress when women wear men's jeans right down to the fly in the front and don the football jersey or man's shirt to complete the masculine look. Fourthly, pants in our society today represent **power dress**. "It is clear, in the course of time, trousers have ceased to be merely a kind of garment worn by men, and has become the **most powerful symbol of manhood.**" (*The Way To Wear 'em*, page 110). If a man wore a shirt with "**Bud Light**" imprinted on it, would his ignorance make him any less advertising "beer"? So when women wear pants they are wearing the symbolic dress of the Emancipation movement with particular emphasis on the pants as being power dress whether this is done intentionally or

ignorantly. When we are able to get women in our society today to wear dresses and skirts and men to wear pants, the confusion is removed and we have clear cut lines of distinction in dress between the sexes just like God demands.

— Dick Ward
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Jennings, FL 32053

GOSPEL MEETINGS: You are invited to attend a series of meetings at the building of the congregation of Christ located at 1107 Hwy 431 S. in Albertville. The date is **Oct. 28-31, 1990.** **David Riggs** of Oak Ridge, TN will be preaching.

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Many fathers nowadays are "pals" because they do not have enough courage to be fathers.

* * * * *

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom. (Thomas Jefferson)

* * * * *

To have true friends, be a true friend.

* * * * *

The man who has nothing but money is poor indeed.

* * * * *

Christ does not take us out of the world when we become Christians, but He teaches us how to live in the world. We are "in" it but not "of" it!

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