

Youth NEWS

F. U. E. L. Youth Rally 2017

There will be a youth rally hosted by MidTown May 5-6 with Joe Wells entitled, "Confronting Culture." Plan to attend Friday at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. with lunch provided.



Peach Valley Christian Youth Camp

July 16th-21st, 2017. Camper (9-15 year olds) applications available online. Camper drop off Sunday 2 p.m. Camper pick up Friday 2 p.m. Priority registration is now through June 8.

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, May 7 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Christian Values." What do Christians value? What is important to them? In this lesson we will explore how faithful Christians think and what they hold dear. By understanding values, we can better understand what it means to follow Christ.

SUNDAYS

Bible Classes9:00 AM
Morning Worship10:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Tuesdays (September through May)

Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM
Ladies' Bible Study..... 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Bible Study 7:00 PM

EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

John Moore
Bible Land Passages

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Student Support
Southwest School of Bible Studies

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5901 N. MAIN, VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030
www.midtowncoc.org

APRIL 30, 2017

"WORLDLINESS AND IMMORAL DRESS" by Ronnie Scherffius

Love not the world" (1 John 2:15), an admonition that very few of humanity hear much less heed. Through the years in gospel meetings, at lectureships and at their local congregations, gospel preachers have declared the truth of God regarding the sin of God's people living as though they were of the world and not of the kingdom of God. How sad the state of many in the Lord's church who, like Israel of old, desire to "be like all the nations" (1 Samuel 8:5).

One area of preaching on worldliness which often seems ineffective is immodest dress. How many times have preachers stood in the pulpit as a watchman of God (Ezek. 3:17-19) warning spiritual Israel of the sin of dressing immodestly; of wearing revealing clothes only later to hear members talk of their vacations to the beach or water park, or

to see Facebook posts of members of the church in their bathing suits at the beach or poolside at the hotel while on vacation.

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

1 John 2:15

Perhaps one problem is that we are not calling *immodest dress*

what it actually should be called. Friends, parading oneself before the world half-dressed and revealing oneself to the opposite sex in such a way as that stirs up lustful thoughts is not immodest – IT IS IMMORAL! Would we refer to fornication, adultery, lying, murder, spousal abuse or homosexuality as "immodest deeds?" Would one ever suggest that a child molester was "immodest" in his actions? Is pornography simply "immodest" or "indecent" or is the removal of just a few more inches of cotton and polyester what makes pornography immoral? Humanity walking in the darkness of the world and spurning the light of God is not an "immodest" world but an immoral world! Simply stated, the term *moral* refers to the conduct of men; the standard by which that conduct is determined is the law of God. By contrast the term *immoral* designates conduct that is not moral. Thus, it would be right to

say that conduct which is against God's law is immoral conduct. This being the case, what does the Bible say regarding immoral dress?

When Adam and Eve realized that they were naked they made for themselves clothes out of fig leaves (Gen. 3:7). How much of their body this botanic clothing covered is not stated, however God made "coats of skins, and clothed them" (Gen. 3:21). The Hebrew word translated *clothed* in this verse carries the sense of being "fully clothed." The lesson for us is that God desires man to fully clothe himself.

Not mincing words the Bible calls "revealing one's body" for what it is—nakedness. The seriousness of exposing oneself publicly, even accidentally, is considered shameful in the eyes of God. The heathen corrupted the practice of divine sacrifice to God by offering sacrifices to their pagan deities. The elevation of the altars on which sacrifices were offered to idol gods added to the spectacle of their sinful worship. Yet, to Israel God declared, "Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that **thy nakedness be not uncovered** thereon" (Ex. 20:26). Again, indicating the shamefulness of one's body exposed to public view Isaiah prophesied of the fall of Egypt saying, "so shall the king of Assyria lead away the captives of Egypt, and the exiles of Ethiopia, young and old, naked and barefoot, and with buttocks uncovered, to the **shame of Egypt**" (Isa. 20:4). It is worthy to note that the word translated *shame* in Isaiah 20:4 is the same Hebrew word translated *nakedness* in Exodus 20:26. Even in figurative passages God equates nakedness with shame: "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the **shame of thy nakedness** do not appear" (Rev. 3:18). Brethren, there can be no doubt that in the eyes of God when one's nakedness is exposed in a public manner it is sinful, shameful, and immoral. Christians should neither

love the world nor live like the world when it comes to their dress!

Having considered what God has said regarding the immorality of nakedness let's consider what the world says about itself. British fashion designer and fashion icon Mary Quant is credited by many to be the designer of the miniskirt and hot pants (just the name of these items speaks volumes). Of her famous designs Miss Quant suggests, "Mini-clothes are symbols of those girls who do not want to wait until dark to seduce a man into bed."

Former supermodel Kim Alexis made a rather astonishing statement in a 2003 interview with *The New American*. Regretful of compromising moral principles early in her career, the former supermodel expressed a view of immoral dress that should be the mindset of every Christian:

Dressing modestly tells the world, 'I respect myself and I insist on being treated with respect.' It's possible to be stylish and attractive without wearing something that is too short, low-cut, or see-through. [*The New American*, June 16, 2003, p 28]

As children of God we live in the world but we are not of the world. How desperate is the need for Christian people to live a life characterized by morality rather than worldliness.

Records You Helped Make
For the Week of
APRIL 23, 2017

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....123
Sunday Morning Assembly.....160
Sunday Evening Assembly.....100
Wednesday Attendance.....107

Offering: \$6,079.75

News
& ACTIVITIES

Sunday, May 7

The Monthly Men's Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. here at the building.

Sunday, May 21

Plan to attend the Sunday Fellowship meal following evening services to honor our 2017 graduates. Please bring sandwiches, chips and dips. A cake will be provided and there will be a basket for your cards and best wishes.

- Brookdale Team #5 will meet today.
- You are encouraged to submit bible questions in a "mail box" in the foyer to be answered each fourth Sunday during the evening service.



Congratulations to the graduates of 2017! **Emily DeDear & Desmon Flonnory** will be honored at the Sunday Fellowship on May 21st.

Keep in PRAYER

IN SYMPATHY:

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Agnes Sergel**, grandmother of Athena Scherffius.



RESPONSE:

Please keep **Debra Sanchez** in prayer who responded Sunday.

MidTown Members:

Buster Bailey
Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris

Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key
Kathy Laws
Susie Mesa
Betty Mabe
Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glenodine Pitts
Angela Sneeringer

& Friends Family:

Victor Benitez,
brother of Virginia Escojido
Bert Haynes,
father of Pam Stryker
Kim Neel-Farthing,
daughter of Joyce
June Green,
mother of Janice FitzSimmons
Amy Jamison,
daughter of Terry
Keith Lempa,
son-in-law of Larry Nuckles
Rose Leske,
sister-in-law of Sandra Marie
Barbara Lopez,
mother of Rosalba Barton
Liz Lopez,
friend of Nina Siegel
Janell Marshall
mother of Karon Barton's
sister-in-law

Amanda Mueller
sister of Amy Harris
Fred Porter,
brother-in-law of Della Rampley
Madeline Posey,
family of Julie Posey
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Polly Ray,
aunt of Connie Cleveland
Scott Reeves,
son of Sam and Leta
brother of Sherry Lynch
Gary Rush,
friend of the Arnots
Sammy Snead,
brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius
Prem Verma,
father-in-law of Archana
Kennedy Young, Sr.,
uncle of Naomi Flonnory