

**MODESTY:
A PARENT'S APPEAL**

[The following article is written by brother Ron Hall, one of the elders at the Northside church of Christ in Calhoun, GA. Brother Ron did not intend the following words to be a "bulletin article." These are the sincere and loving words of a concerned father, grandfather, and elder of God, which were merely intended to be a "preface," sent via e-mail, to introduce the actual articles that were to be printed in the Northside bulletin this week. Since the sentiments to follow were sent in an e-mail and not intended for publication, it came with no title. I chose to entitle the article, "Modesty: A Parent's Appeal," and am confident that, once you finish reading, you will concur and appreciate this heart-felt and passionate plea for parents to train their children to be modest before the Lord (cf. 1 Samuel 1:22-28; 2:21). - Brad Green]

Parents take note: the love and influence of the world is a big problem for our young people who want to live right. John warned of this when he penned, **"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."** (1 John 2:15-17, emphasis R.H.). Worldly activities such as dancing, mixed swimming, immodest dress, etc., are all activities of the world that should be avoided at all cost if we want our young people to remain faithful and be saved eternally.

I am reminded here of what Paul wrote in Romans 8:1-8 concerning the importance of placing spiritual things over fleshly (worldly) things. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.** Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

Parents, we have a huge responsibility to raise our children up in the Lord (Ephesians 6:4), and doing so means we must say, "No," to secular and social activities that will destroy their souls. The apostle Paul proclaims the Bible principle that man reaps what he sows – "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. **For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting**" (Galatians 6:7-8, emphasis R.H.).

Parents, we should do everything in our power to see that our children are growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord (2 Peter 3:18), and keep them away from worldly activities that will ultimately destroy their souls. Again the Bible warns, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;**" (1 Peter 2:12, emphasis R.H.). As parents we need to be wise and heed what God is saying here while our

children will still listen to us (Ephesians 5:15-17).

- *Ron Hall*