

Good Leadership

By Bill Hall

What are the characteristics of good leadership? Good leadership has vision to see what needs to be done. Good leadership moves forward, is positive in its approach, stirs confidence in others, convinces them that the "impossible" task can be accomplished.

Good leadership has faith in people. Good leadership believes that others want to work and that they will respond when properly challenged; it places the best possible construction on the actions of others. Good leadership "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things," because good leadership loves.

Good leadership does not run ahead of others. It does not do everything itself. In fact, it frequently steps aside, and waits, sometimes anxiously, while others are given a chance to perform the tasks which they are capable of performing. Good leadership is not nearly so concerned with getting things done as it is with developing people into useful, mature servants of the Lord. Good leadership is constantly producing leadership in others.

Good leadership has a real concern for others, and has the ability to communicate that concern. Good leadership is patient, understanding; it is neither too quick to rebuke nor is it indulgent toward sin. Good leadership places itself in the other man's position to see things from his viewpoint.

Good leadership is humble; is willing to acknowledge mistakes; it can accept criticism, and separate the constructive from the destructive. Good leadership seeks the praise of God rather than the praise of men; it sacrifices popularity to do God's will.

Good leadership has conviction, but is not stubborn or headstrong. It listens to others and views their ideas objectively. Good leadership treats all alike; is impartial. Good leadership is frank and candid, but is kind. Good leadership is self-confident, but not proud; it does not have to be self-promoting.

The church needs men and women who are leaders, but what a difference between those who seek to lead and those who truly lead.

Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 PM Kid's Class at the Building	Tuesday 8 PM Truth-seekers in Student Center Rm 2310	Thursday 7 PM Ladies Class at the Rouse's on "Giving God Control"
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Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland (Toni's relatives)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Joy Powell (Tori Luther's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	William Herd	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Ray Humphrey (Seth's dad)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkins' Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Ellie Vaughn (Scott and Genna's baby)

September Birthdays

- 2-Denise Davis
- 3-Trenton Anderson
- 3-Larry Lauderdale
- 4-Kevin Anderson
- 7-Abigale Gilbert
- 10-Bj Winslett
- 10-Eleanor Weldon
- 10-Matthew Sullivan
- 11-Sheryl Fowler
- 11-Kimberlee Myers
- 12-Jared Johnson
- 13-Adam Saylor
- 13-Rachel LaGrone
- 14-Patsy Ogle
- 16-Brittany Bagents
- 17-Laura Weldon
- 18-Alaina Loggins
- 21-Sarah Chandler
- 24-Wade Winslett
- 24-Lauren Johnson
- 25-Ashley Collier
- 26-Ali Ingram
- 28-Katie Pepper
- 29-Preston Loggins

News and Notes

- ☒ - Let's keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Jessica Anderson and Nicole Pender!
- ☒ - Our monthly singing is tonight!
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Joe Perkins, Scott's dad.
- ☒ - Anthony Sanderson's stepdad, James Yell, is improved and out of the hospital.
- ☒ - Bathrooms behind college classroom now available for use
- ☒ - Those interested in participating in a public Bible reading can sign up in foyer!
- ☒ - Katie Gentry and Alex Dobbins have identified with the University church!
- ☒ - All audio is immediately posted to www.auchurch.com. Audio CD's are made after every service.

The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Dressing Our Daughters Like Prostitutes

By Jonathan Perz

Modesty is a virtue that shows love to others and brings glory to God through appropriate dress.

Thoughts to Ponder

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Prov. 22:6)

Shocking title, isn't it? I offer no apology. There comes a time when you have to call it like you see it, and it has reached the point where you don't have to look far to find a little girl dressed in "the attire of a harlot" (Prov. 7:10). As a matter of fact, you don't have to look outside the assembling of Christians! If this is how they dress inside, when meeting with the saints, how are they dressing when they are going to school, playing outside with their friends, or in any other public place?

The attire I speak of is something you might see Britney Spears or Christina Aguilera wear in their latest scintillating video (that is, if you watch MTV---a problem in and of itself). This "clothing" consists of skirts that barely cover the loins, let alone the thigh, blouses that show the midriff and barely cover the chest - all painted on so tight you wonder if the sizing on the apparel is wrong. Such clothing is expected if you see a prostitute on the street, but is not expected when you see our little girls in the church - girls who are supposedly being raised in Christian homes.

This problem is not isolated to our teenage daughters. Immodesty in

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teenagers does not happen by accident. It is the result of parents who encourage immodesty in their little girls twelve and under. While encouragement might seem like a strong word, how else do you describe a situation where parents actually buy this immodest attire for them. It takes purpose to instill modesty and it takes purpose to instill immodesty. We reap what we sow.

The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). If children are taught to wear clothing that God considers nakedness in their young and forma-

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Elders
Walker Davis
(334) 703-0050
Larry Rouse
(334) 734-2133

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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tive years, what kind of clothing, conduct and behavior will be reaped when they are old? The natural tendency is to grow more liberal, not more conservative. Thus, it takes a major paradigm shift to swing from immodest to modest. However, such a paradigm shift implies a period of many years where children were encouraged in sinful conduct - for it is sinful to dress immodestly (**1 Pet. 3:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:8-10**). Such being the case, why are we surprised when our little girls go the exact way we trained them to go?

If this isn't enough, rationalizations are offered for functional uniforms that are also immodest. For example, cheerleaders are typically required to wear very short skirts and bloomers that often have text stamped on the backside; their routines require them to expose themselves in a way that is anything but modest. Other sporting uniforms are similarly rationalized (e.g., swimsuits, running shorts, dance attire, etc.). Since their children engage in these activities, parents argue that the immodest attire cannot be helped and should therefore be tolerated... even accepted.

Contrary to popular belief, it can be helped and it must not be tolerated. Such activities are optional, not mandatory. Such activities should be discouraged, not encouraged. Were they discouraged at a young age, they would not be desired in future ages. Our little girls do not need to take dance class to be well-rounded Christians. Being a popular cheerleader is "a way" that leads away from God, not closer to God. A quick look at an NFL or NBA cheerleader provides adequate evidence. Do you want your little daughter to grow up and dress in such a way and engage in such activities that draw men's eyes toward them in a lustful way (**Matt. 5:28; Luke 17:1-2**)? Immodesty in our little girls is the first step of a much larger plot, devised by Satan, and unwittingly orchestrated by parents to so desensitize their little girls' consciences and soften them up for a much larger world of immorality. If Satan can get them to forget how to blush, they are primed for a whole new genre of sin in their lives (**Jer. 6:15**). So,

how does whetting your daughter's appetite for things they must turn away from when they are older prepare them to be godly Christian women?

The wise man wrote, "It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth" (**Lam. 3:27**). To set one standard when children are young, and expect another when they are old, is not only contrary to the wisdom of God - it is folly! Parents fail their children when they fail to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (**Eph. 6:4**). While it is true that this burden ultimately falls on fathers, reality cannot be ignored - the church is directly impacted as well.

When parents fail to take responsibility for their children's attire and behavior at a young age, and their children's conduct becomes unacceptable as they grow, elders and brethren are forced to deal with it when the children are older. Defensive (and guilty) parents accuse preachers who preach against such immodesty of "targeting" their children. Elders who stand strong against such behavior are labeled by the same as "out of touch" and "binding where God has not bound." Thus, the expectation of the parents of these children is to compromise, lest they lose their children to the world. Unfortunately, some of these children are already lost to the world and it is not the church that is to blame. Nevertheless, some will blame the church, its leadership, and those who call it like it is. The truth is that the parents trained the child in the way she went and everyone associated is left to bear the fruits of these labors and pray that the grace of God will remain long enough for her to return to the Lord. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Parents must train children in general (sons can dress immodestly too!), and their daughters in particular, to appreciate modesty and disapprove of immodesty. The church must expect modesty and reprove, rebuke and even discipline those who teach and practice otherwise (**2 Thess. 3:6**). Let us not dress our little girls like prostitutes, but like girls who will grow up to profess godliness with good works.



Isolationism

By J. S. Smith

An isolationist ignores warnings like these and offers none of his own. This elder handles poorly the pastoral responsibility to protect the flock from grievous soul-snatching wolves (**Heb. 13:17**).

Since the advent of the space and information ages of modern history, there has been a parallel neo-Luddite movement against the progress of science and society. The Survivalist movement (made infamous by the Unabomber) is a reaction to change and cultural digression that moves people to live in cabins in the wilderness, trying to survive by the fruit of their own hands and labor. Such people are fleeing modern society and isolating themselves from human contact. I will have to admit that when I read the latest abortion statistics or hear of another high school shooting, I almost want to pack my knapsack and follow their lead. Once called hermits, they are now isolationists.

Among Christians, and especially it seems, preachers and elders, there is a new spiritual movement in the same direction. The apostasy racking the American church from coast to coast is just as repulsive as abortion to all of us. How we deal with error and false teaching is an important consideration.

Many churches are operating on a "See no evil; hear no evil; speak no evil" precept. The brethren are praying that what they don't know can't hurt them. I wish the devil were so considerate as to excuse the ignorant from his perdition, but it is not so. Rather, he exploits them (**Acts 3:17**).

Many have chosen to ignore the current controversy over divorce and remarriage, turning a blind eye to the false teacher and a deaf ear to the warnings about him. Men have crossed their fingers and are hoping that his doctrine won't walk through the front door one day. And it probably won't, for false teachings tend to creep and seep under that door like sludge. "For certain men have crept in unnoticed...who turn the grace of God into lewdness (**Jude 4**)..." "For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captive gullible women (**2 Tim. 3:6**)..."

An isolationist ignores warnings like these and offers none of his own. This elder handles poorly the pastoral responsibility to protect the flock from grievous

soul-snatching wolves (**Heb. 13:17**). He fails to watch and cry out like Ezekiel and the spirits of men are misled because of his self-imposed muteness.

Proverbs tells us that "A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment (**18:1**)."

Surely, no man should go looking for fights. "He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a dog by the ears (**Prov. 26:17**)."

But, is there not an occasion to, like David, ask, "Is there not a cause" to stand like a man and contend for the faith when it is assaulted with error?

The problem with isolationism is that it is a decision of convenience and is alterable when it suits the man. It is alarming how many isolationists are selling Bible class materials, holding gospel meetings all over the country and writing for fraternal journals. For whatever motivation, the isolation is incomplete. It is an impregnable fortress when unpleasant duty calls but the cracks appear when the prospects become more palatable.

This is no request for the appointment of "brotherhood directors." We shall be directed by the Chief Shepherd alone in the universal church (**1 Peter 5:4**). This is a plea for elders to pastor the flock that is among them. That involves keeping an eye on the horizon where lupine false teachings slink and plot. This is a plea for preachers to mark and expose error by the gospel light (**Eph. 5:11**), so that precious souls are not ditched (**Matt. 15:14**).

While we are studying **Romans 14** and deciding whether to sound the warning about all the error swirling around it, it might be wise to focus a little on **verse 7**: "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself."

Isolationism is a fantasy, an illusion. You can never isolate yourself from saving influence on the souls around you. But what influence will you have?

