

MODESTY & SOCIAL MEDIA

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Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-31

INTRO: I do not know how long I will preach today. In 2004 I gave a message on modesty for women. I wanted to re-preach that message but I am greatly burdened on two issues; modesty and social media. So, I have rewritten that message and added a second point.

Turn to Romans 12. We'll read verses 1-2:

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

I am giving a message I gave in 2004. At that time I preached it in three churches in the area. Recently, when I was burdened about the subject of modesty and another subject, I decided to give some of what I gave in that message. I am changing what needs changing to fit the message to this time, but then I want to add a few thoughts on social media. So, I begin as I did almost 20 years ago. It went like this:

"Why am I speaking on the topic of modesty this morning? Before I did that first message my wife and I were driving to town, and though I am not in the habit of listening to the radio much, we were listening to CIAM. It was a family program that was on and they were dealing with modesty. It was one of the finest programs I have heard on radio. Well, the next day I was driving to town again at the same time and I checked to see if I could pick up on the same program. I could and this day they dealt with things like earrings, nose rings, belly button rings etc... To put it mildly, it was disappointing to listen to at least some of their views. Nevertheless, I thank the program for openly challenging preachers to preach on this thing called modesty. They asked this question: Why are preachers so afraid to preach on this topic? Then they suggested various reasons for that." End quote.

When Paul says in Romans 12:1, "I beseech you" he is not pounding the pulpit. The picture is that of one coming alongside of others seeking to gently point out something that needs correction in their lives. He says, "I beseech you by the mercies of God." I do not know why translations translate this word as *mercies*. It is *compassions*. Compassion is not mercy. It can lead there, but only if what it leads to is right.

One of the reasons Christians drift into all kinds of questionable things is because preachers fail to address issues. In 2 Timothy 4:2 Paul calls on Timothy, a young pastor, to convince, or convict, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching. Then he says the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.

I. THE MODESTY PROBLEM

A. The Origin of the Modesty Problem

In discussing the problem of modesty, I am going to reuse much of what I gave many years ago. In dealing with modesty, I am addressing in particular, the feminine side of this topic. I am dealing in particular with dress that is seductive in nature. Some lady said after I did this message years ago, "Why did he only speak to the ladies?" There is an area in which ladies are particularly prone to err. It is not that men are altogether in the clear on worldliness in dress and hair and jewelry, but it is especially an area the evil one tempts women because of the nature of their makeup.

I do not think ladies need to dress in Victorian style clothing today. And I think if men require that of their wives, they need to consider how they dress as well. I see men who expect this of their wives but you would not be able tell them from the world.

When God created man and woman, He created them with an interest in the opposite gender and God created this interest with a purpose that would benefit both man and God. Then God clearly instructed man in the area in which that interest could be legitimately enjoyed and he called it marriage. And God saw all that He had made, and behold it was very good. And then the greatest tragedy of all time happened, man sinned. Man

failed God. Well, God immediately realized that man was in deep trouble. God knew that this desire He had created in man for the opposite gender was so strong, that if He did not do something about it, this desire would be so fueled and fed by nakedness that it would destroy men.

Amazingly, Adam and Eve, right after sinning realized a problem in the same area. As soon as their eyes were opened to the knowledge of good and evil, they realized their nakedness, and they set about sewing together fig leaves to cover their bodies. Shame of nakedness in public was one of the first consequences of sin. And the solution, shame readily told man, was to cover their nakedness while in public.

When God saw man's poor excuse for clothing, we find in Genesis 3:21 that He made clothing of skins for them. What is the first clear message? Man needs to cover his nakedness in public. Second, we learn that man must not cover himself with clothing of his own design, or clothing he feels is appropriate. God must be the designer! And I would conclude from this that the principles that govern the design of the Christian's clothing must not come from man, but from God Almighty Himself. And I propose further that those principles must be gathered from the Word of God!

Well, after sin the devil began to exploit that desire God had created within man, and man began to use it for his own lustful ends. And in all history, this interest God created between man and woman has been misused as few others. To this very day, the world misuses this great interest God created in both man and woman and exploits it for its own sinful, lustful end.

Now I am addressing the feminine side of this thing this morning. Let me say something about that to help our younger men and ladies. One of the key ways God chose to interest the masculine gender was by sight. Second, one of the key ways God chose for the feminine gender to attract man was by her appearance. And I do not have to tell you what the world has done with that. The world cannot even advertise logging equipment

without putting some seductively dressed woman with the ad. I sometimes think that if I were a woman, and I saw how men use this thing, I would become a woman preacher.

Now this misuse abounds on every hand. The radio program I mentioned spoke of how young men have complained that they cannot even find refuge from this problem in the church. And so, we ask, what is the origin of the modesty problem? Well, it originates with Adam and Even in the Garden of Eden. It is an age-old problem. I add to that that the devil exploited this God-given desire in men and women and he has led multiplied millions astray through this.

B. The Problem of the Modesty Problem

And so, I want us to consider next, the problem of the modesty problem. And what could that be? Well, it is the same as the music problem. There's one for men and women. Music and dress have several things in common. One of those things is that they are not governed by clearly defined rules; rather, they are governed by principles. And those principles, for the Christian, are to be discovered in the Word of God. It may come as a surprise to you that there are very few passages of Scripture that directly deal directly with this topic.

Now, why does God not give more clear and specific guidelines on music or dress? Why does He deal with it in principles? I want to propose to you that it is because man is created a creative being and thus music and clothing are ever changing. When you take all the different countries and cultures, styles of music and dress, what kind of book would it take to give specific rules in every case? And so, how has God decided to handle this complex problem? By giving general principles that cover a vast diversity of situations.

Some years ago, I was on the phone with a missionary and he asked me to prove that rock music was wrong and I said, "Ok, first you prove to me that smoking is wrong and then I will prove to you that rock music is wrong." So he said, "Well, that's easy. The Bible says

we are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we are not to defile the temple."

I said, "That's good, but it doesn't actually say anything about smoking. You didn't give a specific rule that said, "Thou shalt not smoke, but you did give a good biblical principle that would address smoking. In the same way, you cannot go to a verse that says rock music is bad, but you can find principles in Scripture that will address it." And so it is with modesty. Nowhere can you go to find that it says where the neckline of a dress should be or how long the sleeves should be, or how long a slit can be, or how tight the clothing can be. But there are biblical principles that address it in such a way that any person that desires godliness will be able to discern in every case what is right and what is wrong. We want to look at several of those principles.

Let me add here, today men are as plagued with tattoos as women are with clothing. And they say, "Well, show me a verse that deals with that." And so you do, and they say, "Well, that's in the OT." And I say, so is the account of creation.

C. The Solution to the Modesty Problem

1. The Principle of Romans 12:1-2

Let us go now to Romans 12. We want to look at the solution to the modesty problem. The solution is to find the principles set out in the Word of God that deal with this area. So let us read those verses:

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Most, if not all immodest dress can also be traced to the sin of worldliness. And worldliness is a manifestation of the sin of pride. The radio program I mentioned earlier did such a fine job one day. When I listened the next day and they were dealing with things like nose rings, belly button rings etc... I was as disappointed as I was delighted the day earlier. And I pondered, where did they miss it? Well, they recognized the problem of immodesty clearly enough. But they missed something more subtle than immodesty. They failed to identify worldliness. That is a most common thing in our modern North American church, and maybe elsewhere too. If Christians would learn to recognize worldliness and would avoid it, the majority of immodesty would disappear in the church.

Look at present worldliness for a moment. When I gave this years ago I said, "Right at this time, (or is it past already,) style has these low cut pants at the hips, and short shirts or T shirts. I can tell you without a doubt that this fad was not designed in heaven. Yet Christians all over are following it. It is time to wake up. I can assure you that these fads, in the long run, will get worse and worse. Jeremiah said in 12:5, 'If you have run with the footmen and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with the horses?' If we cannot stand up to this obvious piece of worldliness, what will we do in the future?

What is the cure for present day immodesty? Here is the first principle: Do not be conformed to this world. Why don't you look at yourself when you dress and ask, "Is this worldly?" I cannot take time to deal with this passage exegetically but the conformity spoken of here has to do with what we look like on the outside. So, we need to identify worldliness, then agree with God that it is sin and wrong, and then abstain from it. The principle of not being conformed to this world as Romans 12:1-2 teaches, would largely solve the immodesty problem. By the way, it would solve problems for men as well.

2. The Principles of 1 Timothy 2:9-10

Turn to 1 Timothy 2:9-10. We want to look at a few principles in this passage. It says:

9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,

10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

In this passage, the context is one of prayer. Paul has instructed that prayer be made for all men and for all who are in positions of authority (1-2). Then He instructs men to pray with uplifted and holy hands, without wrath and doubting. Then he says, "...in like manner also..." and now he will speak of where a ladies emphasis should be when it comes to dress. So he speaks of how ladies are to "adorn" themselves. The word for *adorn* is *kosmeo*. We get our word cosmetics from this word. It comes from the Greek word *kosmos* meaning *world*. It speaks of the orderly arrangement of the externals we see. The three major areas he will deal with are three areas women struggle with. They are hair, clothing and jewelry. So, he will now instruct them on how they are to adorn, dress or attire themselves. The principles given in these verses are indispensable to our topic.

First, it is to be with *modest* apparel. Now the word *modest* is *kosmios*, also coming from *kosmos*, and means, according to Vines; orderly, well arranged, decent, modest. I think there can be little doubt that this word *modest* would include refraining from clothing with seductive overtones. Seductive clothing is that which draws on the physical desires of men. It may have its place, but in public, we learn in the Garden of Eden, is not such a place.

I commend our older ladies, both for how they dress and the effort they put into their children in this area. I want to further encourage you parents, share with your daughters on the importance of modesty. Years ago we had a Bible teacher here and he said what a haven our community was compared to where he came from. Then he said, "But some of your young people are already changing." Today we can say they have changed. Parents, you who know the general principles of how God created man and woman, do not get tired of battling the battle. Keep telling your children over and over. And then some day, hopefully, they will do the same.

Let me add one point to the parents. On the radio program I mentioned earlier, one of the ladies had this insight. She said something to this affect, "We teach girls to dress improperly from a young age. When they are still very young we dress them with skimpy clothing. This teaches them to dress immodestly." There is a word to the wise.

I want to exhort the young ladies, say from age 13 and as long as you live at home; do you obey your parents? Do you obey your conscience? Do you desire and beg for the latest fads? Do you have to be "In"? Let me ask you something: When you marry, what kind of man do you want? Someone who is interested in a girl that dresses like that? Did you know that a man can recognize what kind of woman you are by how you dress? Listen to Proverbs 7:10. It says, "And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart." Oh yes, her subtle heart tells her how to catch men.

I do not claim to understand ladies. I understand men better. If you dress immodestly, you may well get a man who likes an immodest woman. He may not stay true to you either. I want to challenge you to go before God and ask Him to help you dress your body the way He would like it. Ask Him to guide you. Then ask Him to lead the right man to you. If you will seek to please God, though it may often be tough, He will guide you every step of the way.

Let me add here that when I first preached this message a woman I did not know went home and went through her wardrobe and removed a good section of clothing. My daughter was with me when I gave this message, or one like it in another church and she saw this lady pull on her dress to make it a little longer. She knew where it was not proper. It was exposure that convicted.

The second principle given in our text is that she is to adorn herself with *propriety*. The KJV says with *shamefacedness*. The word is *aidos*. It literally means with downcast eyes. It is a word that speaks of having concern for others. You see, my desire may be to dress for what it will do for me. But I am to dress with concern for others. Vine, quoting Bishop Trench says, "Aidos would always restrain a good man from an unworthy act..." Oh, what principles of dress are these? You see, a hard and fast rule might address one situation. These principles address them all.

The third principle given in this passage says that women should dress with *moderation*. The original word here is *sophrosunee*. Kittle says it has such nuances as rational, moderate, prudent, modest, restrained or disciplined. He says further, "A link with aidos may be seen. Proper conduct rooted in aidos is marked by restraint or modesty..." I think it means a mind controlled by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. It is a mind that keeps one from going from one extreme to the other.

So, Paul has instructed ladies on their external appearance positively, and now he will do so negatively. First, they are not to adorn themselves with braided, or plaited hair. This was the fancy hairdo of the day. What they did was plait the hair into braids with gold strands woven into the hair. In short, I think this command is, "Do not adorn yourselves with the latest hair fashion." Furthermore, Paul says, "Do not adorn yourselves with gold, or pearls." Today, young people have gold or silver in their tongues, in their navel,

earrings up one side of the ears and down the other. I am so old fashioned I frown on one, never mind six up one ear and six down the other. What does it have to do with godliness? Nothing! When we adorn our bodies, and adorned they should be, we ought to always ask, "Who am I doing this for?" Am I dressing to please my husband or his friends? Am I dressing to please God, or man?

And last, the passage says, "Do not let your adorning be with costly clothing." Three great areas for ladies: Hair, jewelry and clothing. I ask you, are these areas under the control of the Holy Spirit, or are they under the control of self?

Well, the last great principle Paul lays down here is that women ought to adorn themselves with that, (v.10), which is proper for women professing godliness. How often would this principle not settle whether one should buy a certain item of clothing or not. Is it appropriate for a woman professing godliness?

Listen to 1 Peter 3:3-4. It says this:

3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—

4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

Peter covers the same three great areas here when he says, "Do not let your adornment be that outward adorning of arranging the hair, of wearing gold, or of putting on of fine apparel..." That is how it ought not to be. Now listen how he instructs ladies to adorn themselves, "...but, let your adornment be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God."

Would you not agree with me this morning that these principles would settle all questions of what is modest and what is not in matters of dress?

I had a hard time not preaching on the exegetical things I saw in these verses but let me just make one here. Romans 12 said, "Do not be conformed to this world." It could be translated as, "Stop being conformed to this world." It does not say, "Don't do it." It is saying, "Stop doing it." In this text it could be translated, "Stop letting your adornment be merely outward..." In other words, when you don't have the instruction of the Word of God this is how man generally behaves. He needs to stop it.]]]

3. The principle of 1 Corinthians 10:31

The last guiding principle with regard to the modesty problem I want to mention, and it applies to all areas of life, is found in 1 Corinthians 10:31, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Do not let the glory of man be your measuring guide. Find God's will for yourself in the Book of all Books, then walk in it faithfully.

II. SOCIAL MEDIA

I have another concern I want to address this morning. I want to address it though only briefly. To the lady who said, "Why did he only speak about women," let me now address something that applies to both men and women. Since I gave that message on modesty, we have a new problem that exceeds in importance that which we just looked at. Here it is: addiction to social media.

Romans 12:1-2 teaches us to stop being conformed to this world. Then it teaches us how to do that. It says we are to be transformed by the renewing of the mind. As I understand this passage, the word *mind* has to do with the data storage area of the mind. To be conformed to the world speaks of our outward appearance. To be transformed has to do with our inner being. We get our word

'metamorphosis' from the word translated here as *transformed*. When we change what we have stored in the mind by repentance and we put in the right information, it will change us from the inside to our outside.

I am thinking this morning especially of the subject of social media. I do not qualify to speak about this subject. I hardly know how to use my phone. I don't even know what most of the social media platforms are. I am concerned for the future because of what I see and hear among some of us.

One of the big things that makes social media so dangerous is that there is so much good that can be gleaned from at least some platforms. I use the internet to study. I have a good-sized library, but on the internet, I can find more things and find them faster than in books. I am not opposed to the right use of the internet. But if one is not diligent, one can spend a lot of useless time by being lured into things one was not after. There are many dangerous hooks on social media. The dangers of the internet are huge. It seems to me that social media is wreaking havoc among our young people and it may go wider than that.

Let me ask you, how many of us are addicted to social media? Here is a definition of an addiction: "An addiction is a chronic dysfunction of the brain system that involves reward, motivation, and memory. It's about the way your body craves a substance or behavior, especially if it causes a compulsive or obsessive pursuit of "reward" and lack of concern over consequences." That is worth a whole message. How many of us can sit down to visit with others without having social media in our hands?

Notice it says, "Addiction is a chronic dysfunction of the brain." What did Romans 12 say? Be transformed by the renewing of the mind!

The top ten social media platforms are #1 Facebook; #2 Youtube; #3 What'sApp; #4 Instagram; #5 TikTok; #6 Snapchat; #7 Pinterest; #8 Reddit; #9 LinkedIn; #10 Twitter; and there are many more.

I don't know what most of those are. Let me ask, are you on facebook? Are you on Instagram? Let me ask you, how much time do you spend on this? Let me ask you, would you mind if we could open your communications and display them? Let me ask you what you post. What kinds of words or pictures do you post? Let me ask you, what would the Lord say to what you post?

When I thought about all this, I thought about myself and I said, "How much news do I need to watch?" How much time do we spend on youtube? How much time do we spend on modern video games? I ask you, are many of those games not a total waste of time? I ask you, what benefit do you derive from them. Let us ask ourselves, what is social media doing to my mind? Does it help me to renew my mind?

Oh, the hooks on social media. Producers have a way of using hooks in that good stuff to lead one a lot of places one had no intention of going. Do you remember what pastor Daryl said? He expressed my thought that it would be nice if a pastor could open someone's heart and look in and say, "Sure enough. He or she is a Christian." But he said if you can look at their facebook page or maybe I could add Instagram or others, there you get a look into their heart. Oh yes, there is a lot of good stuff but there is the danger of the hooks. Ever so slowly we cool off spiritually.

Let me ask you, how much time do you spend on social media? How much time do you spend on video games? I am talking especially about games that dumb people down. I am talking about games that lead you on and on. I was recently sent a link that dealt with the game Minecraft. It may well be that if you play these games that you do not know what is happening to you. I am old and out of the loop and you may say, "He doesn't know what he is talking about." You may be right. Check your conscience and see what it says.

The link to Minecraft I got was done in 2014 and was put out by the Berean Call. I do not know anything about that game but I cannot imagine it has gotten better. But at that time, if you completed the game it said this:
"and the universe said I love you"

"and the universe said you have played the game well"
"and the universe said you are stronger than you know"
"and the univesers said the light you seek is within you"
"and the universe said you are not alone"
"and the universe said I live you because you are love.
"And the game was over and the player woke up from the dream. And the player began a new dream. And the player dreamed again, dreamed better. And the player was the universe. And the player was love."

Do you know how boring reading the Bible sounds after you play a game like that? Sure you do, now that you think about it. Ask yourself, "Am I being conformed to this world?" I ask you, is playing this game a sin? Play right to the end and see what messages you get. And the time you spend is a total waste of time and I ask you, is that not a sin? I am not saying all those games are wrong. I don't know enough to say that. You say you are a Christian? You say Jesus is your Lord? But has some game become your lord? You have to have it?

Let me recommend to you a talk show on utube called, "Are You Entertaining Spirits Unaware?" You might want to order the book recommended there. I do not recommend some of their own discernment, though they are speaking of discernment. When preachers south of the border get concerned about video games and social media, it usually has to be quite bad.

Listen to Romans 12:2 now:

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your... What? mind,

Can anybody tell me what the rest of the verse says? Listen to it:

...that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

May I ask you, how serious are you about knowing the will of God? Are you willing to reexamine all you are involved in and do?

I listened to a young man named Charlie Kirk. You may have heard him. He said, and I quote: "TikTok is a garbage platform designed by neuroscientists to make you dumb and easy to control. Every study shows that, that the whole moto is to be hyper addictive in a short video format." He said, "If you want any kind of success besides being a TikToker, get off TikTok...the redeemable value of TikTok is negative." Then he said, "I'm not trying to offend you I'm just being honest...it's a Chinese military operation to make American teenagers super dumb." It was added that the Chinese do not let their own young people on TikTok. They ban it for their own young people. He said that if you ban TikTok depression will go down."

Do you remember the words, "be transformed by the renewing of your mind?" I don't know what you all, including our young people, are on. But this site said TikTok is super addictive. There are all kinds of social media that are super addictive. And if you are addicted, it is time to get off. And how does one get unaddicted? Maybe the best way is by doing it the same way you break a habit. Do you know how that is? I have heard about how to break a habit. It goes like this. **(1)** If you have a habit, don't break it bit by bit because if you take the h off the word habit you still have **(2)** abit. If you take the a off next, you still have a **(3)** bit. If you now take the b off you still have it **(4)**. So, the best is to just get rid of the whole thing at once. I have no doubt I am speaking to some who need to cut some social media platforms completely so that you have no part of it remaining.

Have you heard the saying, "lock, stock, and barrel"? It goes something like this. Many years ago, a man had a muzzleloading gun and he went to have the lock fixed. And the gunsmith said, "Well, it looks like you need a new stock as well." He said, "OK, replace it too." Then the smith said, "But look at the barrel. It is worn out." And the gun owner said, "Well, I guess you could replace it too." And the smith said, "If you replace the lock, the stock and the barrel, in that case, you might as well buy a new gun altogether." Maybe some of need to get rid of lock, stock, and barrel.

I have a friend. He has a business and all he has is a flip-phone. I have not asked him why but I wonder how many should do the same?

Parents, did you know that you can check your young people's phones and you still may not know where all they have been? Did you know there are ways around some of those safety features? Did you know that parents are sometimes the last to know what is happening?

I watch news. It is not wrong to watch the news is it? Or is it? I have heard this expression, "So and so is a news junkie." I ask you, does that sound holy and godly to you? Does it sound like renewing the mind? Or does it sound like ruining the mind. Should I be asking myself, "Am I a news junkie?" What is a news junkie? It is one addicted to the news.

I would dare to say that some of us, and it may be more than we think, are inching down the pathway, not of Minecraft, but mind craft, and we know who the crafter is.

CONCL: I'm going to ask the pianist to come and play #562. You might turn there. In conclusion, I remind us first that this problem of clothing began in the Garden of Eden and came with sin. Since then, man has exploited a wonderful God given attribute in man and drawn multiplied millions into its vice and ruin. Some women say, "Well, let men keep their lustful eyes to themselves." If you dress modestly, I agree with you. If you dress temptingly, you are the sinner. You are holding a match to gasoline and saying, "Don't burn." I remember hearing this song years ago, "It wasn't God who made Honkey Tonk Angels." That tells you how old I am. But let me tell every woman this: "It was God who made men." That desire in men is not a weakness, it was made by God. But ever since the fall of man the devil has been doing all he can to make it a weakness and a trap that leads into the abyss by the seductiveness of women. And like gasoline and matches, one must obey the rules.

But there isn't just seductive clothing, there is worldly clothing; plenty of it. I thank God for every mom and dad that is seeking to hold a line. I challenge Moms and Dads, and young people, win it! Hair, jewelry and clothing, do any of these have a hold on you? Win it! Take the Word of God, the breastplate of righteousness and the shield of the faith and win it! You may

need to pray over various areas of life, even (or should I say especially) such as swimming gear. Well, consider it. Pray about it. And when God gives instruction, win it!

You may say, "Pastor Phil, I don't agree with you about..." Don't worry about disagreeing with me. You will not have to give account to me someday for what I believed. You and I will both meet God and we will give account for everything we have thought, said, or done. But this morning, if you know you have heard from God on some area, will you commit to changing it? I do not expect everyone to agree with everything I have said but as a professing Christian, I do expect you to be honest and agree with the Lord.

When I originally gave this message, I was especially addressing grads in our local high school. I said: "Grads of 2005, you know what is right and what is wrong. Do not let the world squeeze you into its mold. Don't let anybody see you in a skimpy, worldly outfit! Set a standard. I have been amazed at our Mennonites. Unbelievable shame. Shame on parents. Shame on young people. Shame on us preachers who sit by silently. Shame, as God Almighty is shamed in scorn. Parents, help your young person. Young person, you see to it that God is honored in your life. You say, 'But I am only one person.' Oh, thank God for even one such young person."

Let me add, young person, do others snicker because you don't have an I phone or a certain app? Do not be squeezed into the mold of the world because of the fear of man.

In that message I addressed grads and said, "Who planted this question in your mind, 'I wonder if I should go to the dance afterward?'" Who designed that question for you, God or the devil? Today we have to ask, "Who asked if you should go to the dance or have a social drink at a 'Christian' wedding? We might ask, 'Who said you had to have a cell phone?' Who said you need a tatoo?'"

How does one live so he can say, *"But God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."* When will we stand up like God's children and bear the shame of the cross? When will we stand for what is right, and let our children bear some pain by being different?

And so, in closing, I want to give you opportunity to respond to the message this morning. Maybe you are in a house-church somewhere. It is hard to stand and commit there too. I encourage you to stand as well. And if the Lord has not spoken to you, please do not stand. There is no need to. Don't worry about what others think.

Young ladies, ladies, would you commit yourself like Daniel, not to defile yourself with that which is ungodly or worldly? If the Lord has spoken to your heart and you would be willing to say publicly, "Lord, here I am. I am willing to dress as You wish. Just grant me your Spirit in this and I will follow You. Deliver me from ever being a downfall to a man because of the way I dress." Young person, stand and make a commitment to change if the Lord has spoken to you.

"Parents of children, are you willing to stand and commit yourself to not grow tired in setting a standard in your home. Are you willing to follow the nudge of the Holy Spirit when He prompts you to set a standard? If the Lord has spoken to your heart, are you willing to stand and say, "I am willing to make myself accountable to these people by standing in their presence to follow Your leading in training our children."

"Grandparents. Are you sometimes grieved the way your children or grandchildren handle some of these things? Do not say, 'My duty is finished. They are grown up. They have to see to it now.' I know just how hard it is, but grandparents, sometimes grown children need a wee little word. Oh, how hard it is to give that wee little word. And sometime grandchildren need a wee little word. Would you commit yourself in a new way and say, "Lord, if I need to say something I am willing." Would you say I am willing to commit to that by standing?

Regarding social media, let me ask you, has the Lord spoken to you this morning? I wonder, can you sit down without the cell phone in your hand? Maybe someone in a house church or someone elsewhere, will you stand and say, "God has spoken to me about something." Now in each of these commitments, don't stand unless you also say, "I will ask the Lord and do what He says to me." I know in my own life how reserved I become when it comes to commitment time. But if we don't commit, we might not even get the ha off the word "habit."

Stand and I will pray. Ungodly clothing; worldliness; being squeezed into the mold of the world. Training children. Talking to grown, married children or grandchildren. Social media. Pictures and words I post. And maybe you say, "Whew, I'm glad he didn't mention this or that." That was far worse than if I had mentioned it. That was the Lord, you need to commit to what He has said.

Let us sing this song now and then I will pray, #562, *Just As I Am*.