

AM I A PART TIME CHRISTIAN?

I. A Christian who loves the Lord can dress properly.

- A. One of the hunters we have at West Walker told me the other day that bare season has opened.
- B. Sadly, this is true for many Christians as well.
- C. For some reason, when the temp's go up, some Christians feel that their clothes must come off.
- D. This is a sign of someone who does not love the Lord and respect his teachings on this subject.
- E. The sad fact is, many parents allow their young people to dress this way.
 - 1. One mother told me that her daughter's legs were long and it was hard to find a skirt long enough.
 - 2. That does not take away our responsibility.
- F. Modesty is demanded of Christians (1 Timothy 2:9; 1 Peter 3:3).
 - 1. What we wear tells people who we are (Genesis 38:15).
 - 2. We can cause people to sin (Romans 14:7; Matthew 5:27-28).
 - 3. Changing culture does not mean that God's word changes (Matthew 24:35).
- G. God has set some standards for us.
 - 1. Genesis 3:7, 21.
 - a. Their aprons would be like a bikini for a girl or a loincloth for a man.
 - b. The word for coats indicates a garment that covers from the shoulders to knees.
 - 2. Exodus 28:40, 42.
 - a. They were told to wear coats, girdles and bonnets.
 - b. God added linen breeches as an undergarment to cover their thighs so that they would not be naked.
 - c. It would seem that God considers a person naked if his/her thighs are uncovered.
 - 3. Some might say, well that is in the Old Testament and not binding on us.
 - a. We serve the same God the Jews served.
 - b. We are priest under the New Covenant (1 Peter 2:9).
 - c. The Old Testament was given for our learning (Romans 15:4).
 - d. Do we really think that God would expect less of us who are under a better covenant than those under the old law?
 - 4. Notice in the New Testament, John 21:7 - Peter felt he was naked and so did the Holy Spirit.
- H. We are not to be friends of the world or conformed to the world (James 4:4; Romans 12:1-2) and this includes how we dress.

II. A Christian who loves the Lord will attend every possible service of the church.

- A. Do you get joy out of assembling with the saints (Psalms 122:1)?
 - 1. Some people see worship as a bore or “have to” responsibility.
 - 2. Some see it as an opportunity to be in the presence of the Lord (Matthew 18:20).
- B. We are taught by command and example to assemble on the first day of the week as well as other times.
 - 1. Hebrews 10:24-25.
 - 2. Acts 20:7.
 - 3. How many times should we assemble?
 - a. You cannot convince me that Hebrews 10 means only on the Lord’s day.
 - b. The early Christians met daily (Acts 2:46-7).
 - c. We are under the oversight of the elders and if they say to meet on a certain night and time, we should do everything we can to be there.
- C. There are some principles that should guide our thoughts on attendance.
 - 1. Our love for God is shown in our worship habits (John 14:15).
 - 2. We get to associate with Christ and other Christians.
 - 3. We receive blessings from worship.
 - a. Romans 10:17.
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
 - c. We are lifted to a higher spiritual plane when surrounded by fellow Christians.
 - 4. Spiritual nourishment (1 Peter 5:2).
- D. How many times can we intentionally miss the assembling of the saints before it is a sin?
- E. If I can neglect my attendance and be right in the sight of God, then I can neglect my giving, praying, teaching and every other aspect of worship and work for the Lord as well.
- F. The Christian who loves the Lord will attend every service he/she possibly can.

III. A Christian who loves the Lord will attend worship when on vacation or out of town.

- A. As I said in the introduction, every Christian is a full time Christian and there are no vacations from being one.
- B. The devil does not say, “I won’t bother Ben and his family because they are on vacation this week.”
- C. When we go out of town we are not relieved of our obligation to assemble with the saints wherever we may be.
- D. The first day of the week is the only time we get to:
 - 1. Partake of the Lord’s supper (Acts 20:7).
 - 2. Give of our means (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
- E. Every week has a first day no matter where we are in the world.