

A monthly publication of Christian Church of Mountain Home in the interest of promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and goodwill among His people, our friends.

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Ozark Christian College
Show-Me Christian Youth Home
Christ on Campus
Mtn. Home Christian Academy

Prayer Has Its Reasons submitted by Rick Schmeski

This installment in our series on prayer was written by Robert Velarde and was posted on the Focus on the Family website. © 2008 Robert Velarde UBP ARR

1. **God's Word Calls Us to Pray.** One key reason to pray is because God has commanded us to pray. If we are to be obedient to His will, then prayer must be part of our life in Him. Matt. 5:44; 6:5, 9; Rom. 12:12; Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Tim. 2:1

2. **Jesus Prayed Regularly.** Why did Jesus pray? One reason he prayed was as an example so that we could learn from him. The Gospels are full of references to the prayers of Christ, such as Matt. 14:23; 26:36; Mk. 1:35; Lk. 5:16; 6:12; 18:1

3. **Prayer is How We Communicate with God.** Prayer allows us to worship and praise the Lord. It also allows us to offer confession of our sins, which should lead to our genuine repentance. Moreover, prayer grants us the opportunity to present our requests to God. All of these aspects of prayer involve communication with our Creator. He is personal, cares for us, and wants to commune with us through prayer.

4. **Prayer Allows us to Participate in God's Works.** Does God need our help? No. He is all powerful and in control of everything in His creation. Why do we need to pray? Because prayer is the means God has ordained

for some things to happen. Prayer, for instance, helps others know the love of Jesus. Prayer can clear human obstacles out of the way in order for God to work. It is not that God can't work without our prayers, but that He has established prayer as part of His plan for accomplishing His will in this world.

5. **Prayer Gives us Power over Evil.** Can physical strength help us overcome obstacles and challenges in the spiritual realm? No, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Eph. 6:12). But in prayer even the physically weak can become strong in the spiritual realm. As such, we can call upon God to grant us power over evil.

6. **Prayer is Always Available.** Nothing can keep us from approaching God in prayer except our own choices (Ps. 139:7; Rom. 8:38-39).

7. **Prayer Keeps us Humble Before God.** Prayer reminds us that we are not in control, but God is, thus keeping us from pride.

8. **Prayer Grants us the Privilege of Experiencing God.**

Through prayer we obtain an experiential basis for our faith. We do not ignore the intellect or reasons for faith, but prayer makes our experience of God real on an emotional level.

9. **Answered Prayer is a Potential Witness.** If our prayer is answered, it can serve as a potential witness for those who doubt.

10. **Prayer Strengthens the Bonds Between Believers.** Prayer not only strengthens our relationship with God, but when we pray with other believers, the bonds are strengthened.

11. **Prayer Can Succeed Where Other Means Have Failed.** Have all your options been exhausted? Prayer can succeed where other means have failed. Prayer should not be a last resort, but our first response. But there are times when sincere prayer must be offered in order to accomplish something.

12. **Prayer Fulfills Emotional Needs.** We were made to function best, emotionally, in a prayerful relationship with God. "God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other."

— C.S. Lewis 



Preacher's Pen *by Gene McCoy*

For other articles and information about our congregation, go online www.ccmhar.com



Stand up for the innocent, speak up for life. Give an hour, save a life.

Added to the Family

**Sandy Selle
Paul & Helen Cooper
Richard & Leslie
Hytenin**

all immersed believers, have formally enlisted for service in the work and worship of our congregation.

Announcement

Responding to the request of an individual in the congregation, the elders have agreed that **Gordon Addington** will be a good addition to the elder team. If there is a biblical reason he is not qualified, however, the elders ask that they be notified before Sunday, September 29. Barring any biblical objections, Gordon will be appointed to the eldership in a commissioning service during the October 6 worship service.

One of the liveliest discussions during our midweek Sizzlin' Summer Study Series was on the topic of modesty. As is usually the case, most of the comments focused upon the responsibility of the ladies. But let's approach this in a way you may not have anticipated.

Many women admit they notice a man's posterior and have expressed that attraction in the same terminology that they consider crude and crass when men express their attraction to certain parts of a woman's body. Don't ask me to explain, much less to understand this attraction! Regardless, it has become fashionable among some men to wear their pants very low on their hips. Actually below the hips. But this style exposes more than what respectable women consider appropriate. It is distracting and



of exposure falls within the realm of appropriateness. Does a woman consider it appropriate and respectable when the man bends over and exposes even more of the flesh that should always be shielded from the ultraviolet rays of the sun? Should the same consideration be given to the anterior upper torso as is applied to the posterior lower torso? Perhaps we could say in this respect that what is good for the goose is good for the gander. And that there would be a lot less "gandering" if the geese didn't invite and incite it.

distasteful. We are certain most women disapprove the wearing of pants worn well below the waistline to reveal . . . shall we say . . . the great divide. Yet some of these same women think it is fashionable and acceptable when they reveal the great divide of a different kind. Now, I realize the effect on the female is not the same as it is on the male in these two scenarios. And that is precisely the point! The principle is the same, however. Neither is modest or appropriate, for each draws undue attention to self, whether it incites disgust or distraction.

Imagine a man asking his wife if his droopy drawers expose a respectable amount of his buttocks without violating the principle of modesty. Or if the amount

of exposure falls within the realm of appropriateness. Does a woman consider it appropriate and respectable when the man bends over and exposes even more of the flesh that should always be shielded from the ultraviolet rays of the sun? Should the same consideration be given to the anterior upper torso as is applied to the posterior lower torso? Perhaps we could say in this respect that what is good for the goose is good for the gander. And that there would be a lot less "gandering" if the geese didn't invite and incite it.

You say, "Now wait a minute. We're not talking about the same issue. What you have described is not lust but disgust." Granted. A woman does not respond lustily when confronted by the intergluteal cleft. But when a man is confronted by the exposure resulting from a revealing neckline or a short skirt, his response is less likely to be one of disgust and more likely to be that of the other sort. Advertisers capitalize upon the reality that strategically uncovered bodies have a powerful effect. Some of the same women who decry companies that use such exploitive tactics to sell their products dress provocatively themselves (albeit to a lesser degree) even in an assembly where the worship of God is supposed to be the focal point! And that brings us to the ladies.

Many are the jokes and horror stories relating to the inquiry of a woman as to whether a certain garment makes her look fat. Women apparently **do** give credence to a man's opinion on **some** things! But men respond in fear and trepidation to such a loaded question. Nevertheless, no man wants his wife or daughter to appear as a slob — or a slut. *(cont. on p. 3)*



"His last words were, 'Yes, Dear, those jeans make you look fat.'"



Preacher's Pen *continued from p. 2*

Wives and daughters who ask if the clothing they wear is modest need to be told the truth by the man in their life. These women understand that men see things differently than women and they want to know if they are drawing undue attention to their bodies in the clothing they have selected. Men, be a man and tell her the truth! **Clothing that reveals or accentuates may draw attention that is neither wholesome nor holy.**

Whenever this topic is raised, someone—usually the guilty—become very defensive, alleging that the church is trying to impose a dress code. Let's be honest. Everyone has a dress code, a standard by which decency is measured. It lies somewhere between nudity and complete coverage. Reasonable people can arrive at a reasonable conclusion regarding modesty.

Read Mrs. Hall's letter, "A Concerned Mother" and Sandy's letter, "Only A Woman Can Say It" www.ccmhar.com> Info Center> Articles

Although some men are overly sensitive and have overactive imaginations, women cannot claim complete innocence. Nor can they deny responsibility. One woman, a professed Christian, recently confessed that she has deliberately worn revealing clothing to draw attention to herself. Some people do know what they are doing when they wear provocative clothing. They are not innocent, therefore, but culpable in the sin of causing a fellow Christian to stumble, the result of a selfish desire to be noticed.

It is possible to be stylish without being stimulating; to be presentable without being provocative. That most Christians dress appropriately—within the boundary of modesty—testifies against those who make excuses that they are somehow unable to find clothing that does not excite, incite, entice or otherwise call undue attention to self.

Paintings have a focal point to which the observer's eyes are drawn. The lines and shapes in this example illustrate it in a way that translates to its application in the fashion industry. Fashion designers utilize this artistic technique to various purposes. Smart dressers select clothing that enhances their appearance. It is sensible to select clothing that does not call attention to less attractive characteristics. The fact is we can control the focal point—where the observers' eyes will naturally focus. The strong appeal of lines and shapes is unmistakable and can be used to good and respectable ends, as well as bad and immodest purposes.



In this regard each individual must submit to self-examination. Is your motive to be presentable or provocative? Is modesty a primary concern when selecting and wearing your clothes? It's one thing to be stylish and another to be stimulating. By our personal presentation we may excite imagination and incite fantasy, arousing lust. Or we may glorify God in our body (1 Cor. 6:20) by adorning it in a way that does not glorify the flesh, thereby robbing Him of the focus of attention He is due.

Perhaps we can summarize this discussion in a single sentence. **If to the reasonable observer it invites, excites or incites, calling undue and allegedly unwanted attention, it is immodest and should be avoided.** all of us are responsible for the way we present our self. We are responsible to God above all. We are also responsible to those who observe us because we do have a level of control over the focus of their attention. Our responsibility also extends to our family and to the church, which is to shine like stars in this dark world (Phil 2:1). 

OCTOBER MEETINGS

- 1 Willing Workers
- 1 Benevolence Ministry Team
- 2 Finance Ministry Team
- 6 Worship Ministry Team Luncheon
- 8 Elders
- 17 Property Ministry Team
- 17 Outreach Ministry Team
- 27 Education Ministry Team



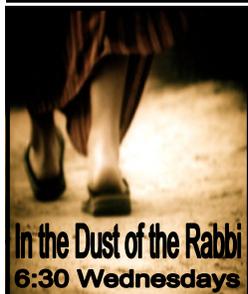
This semi-annual initiative, sponsored by our Benevolence Ministry Team, extends through the month of

October. Donations of boxed and canned food items may be placed in the receptacles located at the back of the Worship Center.



Thursday, October 31

You may assist in various ways with this event that draws people from the community to our church property. Volunteer your service and/or resources by signing on the list in the Worship Center.



This five-session small group Bible study DVD by noted teacher and historian, Ray Vander Laan, helps you experience Jesus' life up close and personal. Filmed on location in Israel, Faith Lessons is a unique video series that brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance. By weaving together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious, and geographical contexts, teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan reveals unique insights into the Scriptures' significance for modern believers.

The "In the Dust of the Rabbi" DVD was filmed on location in Galilee, Priene, and Didyma. These illuminating 'faith lessons' afford a new understanding of the Bible that will ground your convictions and transform your life. Gain vital insights from long-ago times and cultures through this innovative approach to Bible study. 

Cycling for Central

The June issue of **CONTACT** alluded to my summertime fundraising effort to benefit my alma mater and one of the ministries supported through our Missions Ministry Team, Central Christian College of the Bible in Moberly, MO. Sponsors were recruited to contribute an amount of money per mile I rode from Memorial Day to Labor Day—a period of 99 days. One of our elders suggested that I provide in this publication a report of that effort.

I rode my bicycle 44 times and recorded 1,511.35 miles (avg. of 34.35 mi./ride). My average speed was 15.4 mph., which amounts to 98.14 hours.

The final figures are not available just yet, but we know that the amount of the contributions to C.C.C.B. exceeds \$5,000. Two of the gifts amounted to \$1,000 each! There were also donations of \$50, \$100 and \$200. The largest per mile sponsors contributed \$.25/mi., which amounts to \$378. Others committed lesser amounts per mile. But all contributions were valuable and greatly appreciated!

As you might know, the Bible college will still graciously and gratefully receive your donations in response to this initiative! Mail them to CCCB, 911 E. Urbandale Dr., Moberly, MO 65270 and mark it “McCoy bicycle rides.” 

Sixxlin' Summer Study Series - Burning Questions

The midweek meetings this summer featured a variety of presentations and discussions on hot topics; that is, topics about which young adults are asking serious questions. Ten individuals participated in leading the conversations, to whom we are indebted and for whom we are grateful (Don, Hubert, Joey, David, Gene, Casey, Brett, Jason, Barkley, Gordon).

Participation was great among adults of all ages, which was a positive aspect. We are grateful to all who attended and engaged in the discussions. But perhaps the most

encouraging factor was the leadership from among our young men, all of whom did an excellent job of preparing and presenting the material. Some of them realized great value from the experience. One indicated the study caused him to change his thinking on his topic. Another said he grew in knowledge and developed spiritually as a result. A few of them said they think more opportunities of this nature would help them develop their leadership ability.

Thanks to all who came to learn and to support our teachers. Your mere presence encourages those who prepare the lessons. 

The LORD'S COMMISSION is OUR MISSION
Matthew 28:19-20

Meeting Schedule
Wednesday Evening Sunday Morning
5:30 Supper 9:30 Worship
6:30 Bible Classes 11:00 Bible Classes

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