



Sunday – Mar. 19, 2023

The Lakeland Hills Leader

Lakeland Hills church of Christ

2510 Lakeland Hills Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33805
(863) 688-4336

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:00 AM Bible Study
9:50 AM Worship
6:00 PM Worship

Wednesday

7:00 PM Bible Study

Visit our Website:

www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com

For Sermon & Class outlines,
Bible Study Materials and
Other Information.

Visit our Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/LakelandHillschurchofchrist for events,
information, and links to
our YouTube Archives

Visit us on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCu7AG_3jUtpBDlr2NPqB3iw for
Live Streams and Video
Archives.

Elders

Bob Marschall
Leon Miller
Larry Wisdom

Deacons

Bucky Day
Sherman Johnson
Michael Sadler
David Williams

Evangelist

Chuck Kozens

Temptations of Summer

Adapted from an Article by Mike Willis

With the blossoms appearing on the trees, I am reminded that summer will soon be here. School will soon be out. Families will be planning and taking vacations together. Gardens will be planted and worked. Flower beds will be cleaned out and new plants placed in them. Grass will need mowing.

Summer brings a peculiar kind of problem to many Christians. There are temptations which they face in the summer which do not confront some Christians in the winter. We must not be ignorant of Satan's devices. He will use any and every form of temptation to persuade us to forsake the Lord and enjoy sin's pleasures for a season. In an effort to better prepare us to resist the Devil, let us consider some of the temptations which we will be facing in the next few months.

One of the temptations to which many Christians succumb in the summer months is the temptation to dress immodestly. In the summer months, many Americans wear shorts, halter tops, tank tops, swimsuits, and other forms of immodest dress in public places. The beaches and public swimming pools are filled by those who are going there to swim or to sun bathe. The attire that is worn at the beaches is designed to expose as much of the body as the laws of the land will allow. Some Americans practically live at the pool during the summer.

There is nothing sinful about swimming. Many Christians find private places in which to swim. However, not all Christians are so careful about finding private places to swim. Some go to the public beaches and swimming pools. Unfortunately, some preachers and their families can be seen at the beaches and pools in the same immodest attire which characterizes the non-Christians who are there.

Some preachers have quit preaching that sin is committed by mixed swimming. Indeed, in some parts of the country, mixed swimming is accepted by Christians as a legitimate form of recreation.

We need to be reminded of what the Bible teaches concerning dress codes for Christians. Paul commanded women to "*adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety*" (I Tim. 2:9). The word "modest" is from *kosmios* which is defined as "well-arranged, seemly, modest" (Thayer, p.356). The word "shamefacedness" is "a sense of shame" (*Ibid.*, p.14). It is the moral purity which is rooted deeply into one's character so that he will not do wrong, even when no one else might know about it (see R. C. Trench's *Synonyms of the New Testament*, pp. 66-72). The word "sobriety" is "soundness of mind". Trench distinguished the last two words in the following way: At I Tim. ii.9 we shall best distinguish between *aidos* and *sophrosune*, and the distinction will be capable of further application, if we affirm of *aidos* that is that 'shamefastness' or prudency, which shrinks from overpassing the limits of womanly reserve and modesty, as well as from the dishonour which would justly attach thereto; of *sophrosune* that it is that habitual inner self-government, with its constant rein on all the passions and desires, which would hinder the temptation to this from arising, or at all events from arising in such strength as should overbeat the checks and barriers which *aidos* opposed to it (*Ibid.*, pp. 71-72).

These words demand a moral character which has a sense of shame rooted fast within. This sense of shame prohibits the indecent exposure of one's body. The reason that women are willing to expose their nudity is because they have lost this sense of godly shame which characterizes

women of godliness. They have no embarrassment when men, other than their husbands, see them parading around in a swimsuit which covers so little of the body.

The problem is not confined to the weak sisters. Men frequent the same places as do the women. The Scriptures forbid sinful lust. Jesus said, "*But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart*" (Matt. 5:28). Why would a man want to place himself in circumstances in which he is constantly exposed to nearly nude women? The only explanation I can give is because he likes being in those circumstances--he is lascivious in character. Christian men need to imitate the example of Job. He said, "*I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?*" (31:1).

From the Editor: *The things spoken in this article are truth and much more prevalent in Florida. There is very little winter and the immodesty continues to get worse with each passing season. We see it everywhere we go. Christians are to dress in a manner that is becoming of one who has made a covenant with God to be holy in all their conduct. We must examine our dress in light of God's Word and not what is acceptable to society. Does what we wear expose too much flesh? Is it so tight it covers but does not conceal (leggings, muscle shirts, etc.)? Let's be careful that our dress, our actions, and our speech is of one professing Godliness. Let us cover what needs covered, conceal what needs concealed and be pure in heart. In dress, speech, conduct and in all things be holy before God and man.*