

## ON THE LOSS OF SHAME

The populace of our nation have lost their sense of shame over shameful behavior. According to a recent report, even first and second graders are addressing their teachers by such foul names that school principals are taking the matter up with the parents. In some cases these children do not even know the meaning of the obscene words they are using, but are simply repeating what they hear at home. Shame on those parents (and all others as well) who have no sense of shame about their filthy tongues and mouths.

The matter is hardly limited to words, however. The entertainment industry has long shown that it will produce as much vulgarity, indecency, obscenity, and pornography as it can get by with and sell (including movies/television, music, and books/magazines). The things that are now produced and boldly advertised were found only in back rooms and under counters hidden from view a generation or two ago. Then one had to hunt to find them; now one cannot avoid them. The American public that annually spends billions on these vehicles of moral turpitude is as much to blame for this sad condition as the producers of such filth.

The foremost decay of shamelessness relates to matters of sexual desire and behavior. One way that the general public has had its sense of moral values pertaining to sex eroded is by the ever-increasing push of nudity and near-nudity. Some publicly parade with so little on that they are only a few threads shy of complete nakedness. It is at least predictable that worldlings who know not God, but who live for the dollar, should commercialize one of humankind's most powerful instincts. The fashion designers and entertainment moguls promote exposed flesh, and men and women seem all too eager to shamelessly buy/watch/wear their

products. Countless parents eagerly push their young children (especially girls) into such provocative attire.

While we can understand Godless people who live only for the flesh being thus stampeded and brainwashed, we shall never understand how any of God's people can either participate in or defend such. Sad to say, many do, however. Some saints (men and women) profess to see nothing wrong with stripping down to the scantiest swimsuits and exposing themselves at public pools or beaches. Liberal congregations sponsor swim parties for teenage boys and girls. Others defend such practices, but only if the girls were T-shirts (which, when wet, conceal very little). Still others wear (even to worship assemblies) transparent blouses, dresses with "spaghetti" straps, and skirts with hems that strike them mid-thigh. All such constitute disgraceful behavior and demonstrate woeful lack of spiritual depth in those supposedly bound for Heaven.

A major factor in the destruction of God's people in the days of Jeremiah was their shamelessness: "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush" (Jer. 6:15). Among the "works of the flesh" that will keep one out of Heaven is "lasciviousness"—shameless behavior (Gal. 5:19–21). Paul described those who thus behave: "Whose god is the belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things" (Phi. 3:19). The passage also says "whose end is perdition." Young and old alike, as the people of God, let us keep ourselves free of the shameful things of the world (Rom. 12:1–2). May we never reach the point where nothing makes us blush.

—Dub McClish

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