

The Great Commission

Ron Roberts

Jesus said, "... *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world.*" (Matt. 28:18b-20) This is called the great commission.

The commission is great because it is all encompassing. Jesus has all power (authority). He is sending His Apostles to all nations. They are to teach their converts all the commands of Christ. Jesus promised to be with them all the time.

The commission is also great because it accomplishes the greatest goal; the saving of souls. No other effort would do so much for man. No other effort would satisfy God's purpose. No other effort has eternal consequences. But there are many problems in fulfilling this commission today. When the Apostles were told to teach their converts to *observe all Jesus' commands* that included the instructions to *go and teach all nations*. Therefore all modern disciples are commanded to teach the lost.

This command is not heeded because some members do not accept Jesus' authority. Others will not teach all things to the new converts. The new members do not learn their obligation to share their faith. Many others are not teaching repentance of all sins before baptism. Couples in adulterous marriages, are permitted to get baptized, and continue in this sinful arrangement within the church. **No contaminated church can purify the sinful world by preaching a partial Gospel.**

Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

February 12, 2017

Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Editor: Ron Roberts

(317) 851-6777

moorevillecoc.com

Announcements

We thank God for Reva's safe return after her hospital stay last week.

Keep Mary and Jill in your prayers as they battle cancer.

Our quarterly singing is scheduled for March 10 at 7:00. The church in Decatur will have their annual singing a week earlier at 7:00.

Shannon is continuing to have pain and anxiety. It is hopeful the doctors will find the problem and supply a cure in the near future.

Our Spring Gospel meeting with Dan Starr is scheduled for April 16-21. This means it begins on Easter Sunday. Make plans to be here.

A debate on the AD 70 doctrine has been scheduled for Feb. 24 in Danville. See J.C. about the details if you would like to attend. This is an error that has already approached us.

Love never

fails

1 Cor. 13:8

Are We Losing the Battle?

This question has often been asked over the years. When some saints introduced the musical instrument into the worship service many went along with this innovation. Those who stood against this addition were often in the minority. They wondered if they were losing the battle.

Later this question has been pondered in the arena of marriage, divorce, and remarriage. As we find fewer and fewer brethren who will hold to our Lord's teaching (Matt. 19:3-12) we are made to wonder if we are losing the battle. Congregations are accepting new members and baptizing alien sinners with no questions asked about their marriages. And as we seek people for Bible studies we find every other couple is on a second or third marriage. Are we losing the battle?

Although we may be losing the battle **we are not fighting a losing battle**. Many skirmishes will go to the enemy in a war, but the ultimate victory will be ours if we continue to preach the truth. Perhaps we need this reminder most often on the subject of modest dress. Every summer Christian men remove their shirts while sisters put on shorts that rise up to mid thigh. We wonder what's the use of preaching on the subject. Many members are not listening. The number of violators increase every summer, and the teachers who protest this behavior declines every year. We appear to be losing the battle over modesty.

Dee Bowman once mentioned in regards to the mini-skirt that a 5th Avenue designer did with *one phrase* what one thousand sermons could not do. He brought the hemline down by saying, "*It is no longer fashionable.*" Isn't it a shame that "godly" women can not be moved by the word of God but immediately respond to a worldly trend!

The mini-skirt has gone away for awhile, but there is still the need for teaching on modesty. Christians still dress like the world, submit to what is fashionable, and are oblivious to what the Bible says on dress. The current trend is for women to expose their upper portions.

When the temperature rises so do the hems of church members. **Every year** we need to preach sermons and write bulletin articles telling members to keep their clothes on. The teaching is needed with new members. They likely never heard the Bible's teaching on dress. They came out of the world and are still learning what behaviors need to be changed. Those who have been members for decades however are without excuse. They should not need to be told **year after year**.

The "justification" for immodesty remains the same **year after year**. "*I can't wear long pants in this heat!*" "*You don't expect me to be out of style, do you?*" "*You can't show me a verse that sets the hemline below the knee or the collar line close to the neck!*"

The verses that instruct us about our dress remain the same **year after year**. 1 Tim. 2:9-12, 1 Pet. 3:1-6, Prov. 7:6-27, and Gen. 3:7 and 21 to name a few. The principles of being *spiritually minded*, setting a *good example*, not *influencing* others to sin, and *not being conformed to the world* can also be applied to modesty.

The attitude that seeks to please self above all else remains the same **year after year** as well. Why else would we wear the same lewd dress every summer? Please ask yourselves the following questions:

1. If someone refused to study the Bible with me because of the way I was dressed would I change my clothes or forget the study?
2. If someone was influenced to lust because of my dress would I change my clothes or condemn him or her for being filthy minded?
3. If a Godly member of the church questioned my clothing would I change my clothes or leave the church?

More than a question of hemline it is a question of heart line. We stubbornly refuse to submit to God in our dress and have a confrontation with any saint who tries to correct us.

If we stop teaching on modesty it is not because we are losing the battle, but because we have surrendered the war.

Ron Roberts