

It wasn't the Southern Baptist Convention that said: "Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence" (I Tim. 2:11-12).

Let us examine God's Word, find the truth, and apply it even though it might not be "politically correct." Remember: It is the Lord's Word that will judge us (John 12:48), not the ideas and whims of men and women.

—Ken Chumbley
Belvedere, SC



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let us pray for...

Rick & Sheila Beauchamp—his job hunt, mother, her ears
Waynette Davis, Karla Dobbs, Sharon Harp—health problems
Darrell Broking family—their job hunt
Lavonne McClish—macular degeneration treatments
Janice Parks—her health and family burdens
Rick Heimberger, Darrell Conley—health problems

Records you helped make...

Bible Class	14
Sunday AM Worship	14
Sunday PM Worship	14
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	13
Contribution	\$315.00
Contribution average (2009)	\$324.70

Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast via Internet, available at our Website, www.northpointcoc.com. The Sunday morning sermon begins at approximately 10:47 a.m., and Sunday afternoon at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Bible class teacher for September
Chairman of Men's Meetings (July-September)
Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Jerry Smith
Rick Beauchamp
Dub McClish

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Sunday

Bible Class	9:30 AM
Worship	10:30 AM
Worship	1:00 PM

Wednesday

B.C./Worship	7:00 PM
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The Northpoint Lighthouse

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ON THE LOSS OF SHAME

Men and women have lost their sense of shame over shameful behavior. According to various reports, 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 from Mom and Dad (if they have one) or on TV. Shame on those parents (and all others as well) who have no sense of shame about their filthy words.

The matter is hardly limited to words, however. The entertainment industry has long shown that it will produce as much vulgarity, filth, obscenity, and pornography as it can get by with and sell. This includes movies/television, "music," and books/magazines. The things that are now produced and advertised openly were available only under counters, in back rooms, and in the evil underbelly of society just a generation ago. The general public is just as much to blame as the producers because it is consuming such evils to the tune of billions of dollars annually.

Perhaps 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 for nudity and near-nudity. It is at least predictable that worldlings who know not God, but who live for the dollar, should commercialize one of man's most powerful instincts. The fashion designers and entertainment moguls promote as much exposed flesh as they can without being arrested, and men and women seem all too eager to shamelessly buy/watch/wear their products.

While we can understand Godless people who live only for the flesh being so stampeded and brainwashed, we shall never understand how any of God's people can either participate in or defend such. Sadly, 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. Some women defend such "if one wears a T-shirt" (which, when wet, merely accentuates rather than conceals). Still others wear shorts, spaghetti strap or strapless tops, or skirts with hems that strike them mid-thigh or higher. The wearing of such apparel is disgraceful for those bound for Heaven—if they are.

Among the "works of the flesh" (Gal. 5:19-21) that will keep one out of Heaven is "lasciviousness," which means wantonness, indecency, or shameless

behavior. Paul fully described such: “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.” Dear brethren, young and old alike, let us keep ourselves free of the shameful things of the world (Rom. 12:1-2).

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX



[Editor’s Note: We published the following article in the July 11 *Lighthouse*, but in light of our having to withdraw from a sister last Lord’s day, largely involving forsaking the assembly, we deem it appropriate to rerun it at this time.]

DID THEY DO RIGHTLY?

The bulletin of another congregation announced that two members of the church had responded to the invitation on a Sunday morning. They publicly repented of forsaking the assembly of the saints. Did they do what was right? It is obvious that they had become convinced that forsaking the assembly of the Lord’s people is a sin. Were they correct in this conviction, or were they overly conscientious?

Is it a sin to forsake (abandon, intentionally keep oneself from) the public meetings of the church? Hebrews 10:25 bears directly on this question:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

If ignoring and disobeying a direct prohibition of inspired Scripture is sin, then it is a sin to forsake the assemblies of the church. (Note: Merely being **absent** is not necessarily the same as forsaking. One’s **absence** may be due to illness or other things beyond the **absentee’s** control; the one who **forsakes** has the ability to be present, but **chooses** not to be.) Many principles besides the foregoing prohibition in Hebrews 10:25 argue that it is a sin to behave thus (e.g., Mat. 6:33; Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25; 2 Pet. 3:18; et al.).

Of course, forsaking the assembly is actually only the symptom of deeper spiritual problems. Those who choose to be elsewhere than with one’s brethren when they come together need to ask themselves some questions:

- Do I really love God and His Son?
- Do I really love the Word of God?
- Do I really love the church?
- Do I really love my brethren?
- Do I really love lost souls?

One cannot answer “yes” to these questions, continue to forsake the assemblies of the church, and still be honest.

It is terribly sad to see the stubbornness with which some saints seem determined to continue in this sin. Some of these are not about to come except one hour on Sunday morning. (I have never understood the logic of parading such before the congregation as prayer-leaders and servers of the Lord’s supper as if they were spiritually sound. What message does this send to the forsaker? What object lesson does this teach our young people?) Some who are generally pre-

sent every time the church meets will let circumstances (e.g., weather conditions, being “tired,” unexpected visitors, a headache, et al.) keep them home from such meetings that do not keep them from going to work, going to school, going shopping, or engaging in other activities.

What will such brethren say to the Christ who died for the church when they meet Him at The Judgment? What will He say to them? The couple described in the bulletin article did exactly what the Scriptures teach us to do when we sin publicly—repent and ask forgiveness publicly (Acts 8:22). Would to God that brethren everywhere who are guilty of this sin would follow their noble example.

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX



FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER LEAVES HIS DENOMINATION

You may have heard that former President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, severed his 60-year ties to the South Baptist Convention earlier this year. In an article that appeared in the British paper, *The Observer*, on July 12, under the headline, “The Words of God do not justify cruelty to women,” stated the reason for his action. He accused the Baptist denomination of subjugating women and attempting to justify it with “a few carefully selected Bible verses.”

Former President Carter stated that his decision was “painful” and “difficult,” but was “unavoidable” after the Southern Baptist Convention ruled that women could not become deacons, pastors, or chaplains in the military. Carter stated that this ruling was “in conflict with his belief — confirmed in the Holy Scriptures — that we are all equal in the eyes of God.”

The former President’s mistake is the same mistake made by Korah, Dathan, Abriam, and On (Numbers 16:1–3), and it is also the same mistake that many are making today. **The mistake that we are talking about is that “equal standing is equivalent to equal responsibility.”**

Korah argued that since the entire congregation was holy (Num. 16:3), then everyone should have the same responsibility or role. Likewise, I hear people arguing the equality of men and woman based on Galatians 3:23, then concluding that they have equal responsibilities. While the premise is true, the conclusion does not follow. Just read what happened to Korah and his companions. Yes, all the congregation of Israel was holy, yet that did not remove the role distinction between the congregation and Moses. Likewise women and men are equally holy and valued in the Kingdom of God, yet that does not remove the God-given, gender-based, role distinctions affirmed in Scripture (1 Tim. 2:11–15).

What former President Carter doesn’t seem to understand, and what Korah didn’t seem to understand is that their respective rebellions are not against the Southern Baptist Convention or Moses, but they are actually rebellions against God (Num. 16:11).