

**Aim** The magazine for young people

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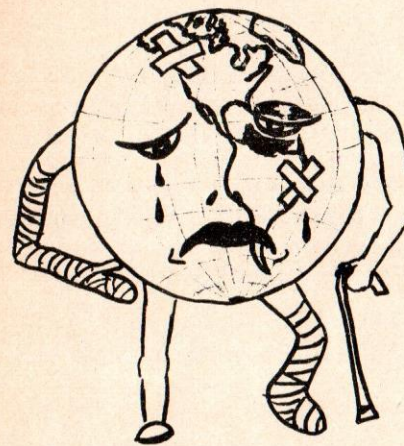
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Hope E. Dais, Editor

*False happiness is like false money; it passes for a time as well as the true and serves some ordinary occasions; but when it is brought to the touch, we find the lightness and alloy, and feel the loss.*

—ALEXANDER POPE

# WHO's



# Laughing Now?

Is there a "world-doctor" in the house? Will someone please call an ambulance for the earth? Make way for the stretcher; sound the siren; this patient is sick and ready to give up its orbit.

The passing away of this planet may come any time. Her condition has rapidly worsened and is being described by experts as "critical." The symptoms of her sickness show up everywhere. Here are a few—

**VIOLENCE:** The rate of violent crimes committed in the world has been increasingly alarming. Aside from criminal acts, we see and hear evidence of much violence in people's languages, their home lives, their entertainment, their driving, and many sporting events. In many cases a good fight or killing is glorified, and people love to have it so. The number of murders in most places has doubled over the last few years. The earth is suffering from black eyes, concussions, broken limbs, and loss of blood. Earthlings have become so addicted to violence that many people who claim to be Christians still enjoy watching it on the television or reading it eagerly in the magazines. People who have not been guilty of violent living or violent thinking themselves, are continually in fear lest they suffer from someone else's violent act.

**This blood-thirstiness of earth's inhabitants was predicted in the Bible. Genesis 6:11 tells us that the whole earth was full of violence in Noah's day, and Jesus predicted in Matthew 24:37 that it would be the same in our day.**

**REBELLION:** There are over three billion members of earth's "people-group," and usually they have about two or more billion different ways of wanting to live and act. As a result, very few of them are willing to obey anyone else's rules or laws anymore. The children are unwilling to obey their parents; students are unwilling to obey their teachers; people are unwilling to obey the laws of government; younger are unwilling to respect the elders.

Too often this lawlessness gains respectability when it comes to figuring up income tax, striking for higher wages, or your pastor driving down the highway, nearly late for an appointment. So you can imagine that when all these people start acting just the way *they* want to, old mother earth has some awful, rumbling headaches. Creeping conditions of rebellion in every segment of society have also brought her a bad case of jitters and jerks, with no part of the body willing to cooperate with the other in normal functions of living.

**The Bible predicted a long time ago that people would be rebellious. One writer (Jeremiah 5:23) said that we have a rebellious heart; we can be assured that we would not suffer from such an acute case of lawlessness today, if men had not first forsaken God's laws.**

**WARS:** Our planet has always had wars, but the modern variety seems to be much worse. Some evidence points to a new deadly "Hong-Kong" type warfare about to be unleashed on many nations. This terrible weaponry is reported as being capable of completely destroying the earth within a few hours after it sets in. In many places where actual war has not erupted, there is a severe fever called "hot spot," where real battle seems almost unavoidable.

Several world-famous war doctors who have diagnosed these conflicts between world-people have been meeting in Paris, trying to manufacture an antidote for this severe case of wars. Thus far they have been unable to find a cure; instead, the condition worsens.

**God knew that man would be unable to live together in harmony on this earth. He inspired His prophets to write that there would be wars, rumors of wars, and distress of nations in our day. Jeremiah wrote, "We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and behold trouble!" (Jeremiah 8:15).**

**POLLUTION:** Certainly a major fact about the sad condition of mother earth is the complete job of poisoning that is beginning to destroy her natural beauty, defile her water systems, and make her breathing difficult. It seems that so many earthlings are so thoughtless or selfish that they have littered the face of this planet with trash, poisoned its water with wastes of their economic gain, and spewed its air full of lung-clogging materials. We have actually bitten the hand that fed us. A few belated coughs and feeble sneezes have not been sufficient to rid the earth's system of these poisons.

Earthlings have also been careless about upsetting the balance of mother nature in so many areas of life, thereby inviting the blight of disease and defilement that now exists.

**The men who wrote the Bible were inspired to mention that a time would come when the earth would languish under its own inhabitants (Isaiah 24:5). God knew that man, following his own greedy way, would bring about a nearly incurable condition such as we now face.**

These are some of the major symptoms of this planet struggling to retain life. The sickness is far advanced and the symptoms are severe. Is there any hope for cure?

Many of the world's most intelligent inhabitants have spent years struggling with the above-mentioned problems, and yet there is no improvement in the patient. Perhaps it is because they have been focusing attention and applying remedies to *the symptoms* of the illness, instead of the *root conditions* which brought it about. The Bible tells about man's heart being wicked, selfish and greedy. Despite what many well-educated and well-intentioned folks may tell you, your Bible says that man himself will not cure the illnesses of this world: he cannot raise himself by his own bootstraps.

Maybe we should say, then, as some have said, "Stop the world, and let me off." That very thing is being tried by those who are pushing man's horizons into outer space. In so doing, they hope to be able to escape many of the blights of this planet, to provide new hope after what they fear may happen, does happen, at home. But again, the Bible indicates that the heavens are the Lord's, and the earth was made for *our* habitation. Problems are not solved by running from them: God says that we will not escape the fate of this earth by running—to some other planet.

What shall we do, then? God has an answer: He is the great Physician. But for many years men have been laughing at God, saying they didn't need Him, and mocking at the idea that God knew anything about running their affairs. They laughed when it was advertised that He was dead; they laughed as a few preachers of righteousness warned of coming doom; they laughed when they couldn't see Him in outer space; they laughed as they followed their own wicked ways.

NOW, we have inherited the fruit of our own doing. NOW, *we* are in a predicament. NOW, the earth is suffering; the last painful convulsions are occurring daily. NOW, men's hearts are failing them for fear, and for looking after the things that are coming to pass. NOW, the earth is about to pass away, and *we* have to ride her down. There's no way out! Read Proverbs 1: 24-31.

WHO's laughing now?

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The enemies man makes by taking a decided stand generally have more respect for him than the friends he makes by being on the fence.

Especially for boys . . .

### Should a Christian Fight?

By Calvin Burrell

As sure as death, taxes, school, and your 18th birthday, Uncle Sam wants you! Here is some straight talk for you to consider as you make up your mind about military service.

Following are four reasons why I feel that a Christian should not participate in warfare.

#### 1. NATURAL EVIL OF WAR

Modern warfare, if not all warfare, is surrounded and saturated by sin and sorrow. The Bible tells us in James 4:1, 2 that wars and fightings come among us because of the greed and lust within us. This human nature on a national level leads to frightening conflict among nations. The awful results are that nothing has been settled, but many lives were lost, many more were wounded, terrible suffering was experienced, and others were left homeless or grieving over lost loved ones. Usually the only certain thing about the end of a war is that the seeds of hatred and discord have been sown to insure an abundant crop of future war. . . . All because man refuses God's way, and goes his own.

#### 2. WAR VIOLATES GOD'S PLAIN COMMAND

Even from the time that Cain slew his brother, we are taught in the scriptures the importance of each human life. Let us not think that God makes an exception to this sixth commandment of His eternal ten just because someone wears the uniform of a na-

tion with whom our country happens to be at war. Whenever we take the life of another person in any situation, we place ourselves in the position of judgment that God alone is qualified to fill—that of deciding when any person is no longer fit to breathe the breath of life. It can be said no plainer than, "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13).

#### 3. WAR IS CONTRARY TO THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS AND THE APOSTLES

The words of Jesus and the writings of the apostles contain some teachings that most people find difficult to accept and almost impossible to practice:

"... for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword" (Matt. 26:52).

"... Love your enemies, bless them that curse you" (Matthew 5:44).

"Do violence to no man" (Luke 3:14).

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink" (Romans 12:18, 20).

"... Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matthew 5:39).

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood..." (Ephesians 6:12).

Now are we to take these statements and say that they only apply in certain situations? Jesus did not say that we should follow His teachings and example only in certain situations. It seems to me very unlikely that Jesus would take up weapons of war against any person at any time, even if His home country were in danger of attack from foreign invaders.

#### 4. CHRISTIANS FIGHT A SPIRITUAL WAR, NOT A PHYSICAL ONE

In Ephesians 4 Paul indicates very plainly the type of soldier a Christian should be. We are to fight with spiritual weapons against the spiritual wickedness of this world. A good soldier of Jesus Christ will most certainly be able to do more good in this life for himself and for others by Godly living, than he ever could accomplish by taking the sword.

\* \* \*

Next I would like to deal briefly with three objections that are commonly heard against the Christian's stand on military service. These arguments are offered by well-meaning people who feel quite patriotically that we should be willing to fight and die for the liberty that we enjoy in a free nation.

**OBJECTION NO. 1: Look at the Old Testament. Didn't God often lead His chosen people into battle? Didn't they completely kill and destroy the enemy, with God's help?**

We do find experiences in the old scriptures where the destruction of certain cities or armies was ordered by the Lord. But we must recognize that God oftentimes dealt differently with the Israelites as a nation than He ever deals with His people today. In the Old Testament, God commanded Israel to fight; in the New Testament, God commands His people *not* to fight. The life and death of Jesus *did* change some things. In the Old Testament God led a physical nation (Israel) out of physical bondage (Egyptian slavery) to fight physical battles and inherit a physical promised land. In the new dispensation God leads His spiritual nation (Christians) out of a spiritual bondage (sin) through many spiritual battles, and into that spiritual promised land, the Kingdom of God. Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence" (John 18:36). Many Old Testament experiences are written as types, to teach us these spiritual truths.

**OBJECTION NO 2: Christians are to be subject to the law of the land, and the law requires all young men to serve.**

It is true that we are to obey the national laws; but in the case of military service, there is an exception that is legal in every respect. A young man who sincerely believes that it is not right in God's sight to participate in warfare may appeal to the government for exemption. If granted this exemption, he is completely within the law of the land.

Even if it were not possible to be exempt from service, we could not allow national law to overrule God's law with regard to participation in warfare. "We ought to obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29).

**OBJECTION NO. 3: What if everybody took the stand that you do? What if no one were willing to fight to defend our country?**

If everyone were willing to obey all the scripture with regard to military service, then praise God! I believe that a God-fearing nation could withstand a fighting nation any time!

Certainly I realize that many men have paid dearly with their lives so that this nation and others might be free. However, the good results thus obtained do not prove that the methods were righteous.

The Bible states "Righteousness exalteth a nation" (Proverbs

14:34). I believe that Godly living on our part will do more to keep our nation great and free than any amount of the enemy that we might mow down with a gun.

#### A FEW CLOSING COMMENTS

The Bible teaches that we should love all men. How can you kill someone that you love? The Bible also advocates non-violence; we cannot sympathize, however, with those groups or individuals who broadcast their own "non-violence," while actually encouraging and fostering violent and rebellious behavior on the part of others. This they do by their own lawless attempts, however "non-violent," to change society.

Our society feeds on violence; the Bible condemns it. Our favorite T. V. programs are the war stories; our favorite book is the murder mystery; our favorite sports are the most brutal ones; headlines of violent and bloody crimes grab our interest every day. The Bible predicted that our day would be like the days of Noah, when violence filled the whole earth. What will a Christian do to turn this trend?

We hold no agreement with those people who rebelliously wave "Make love—not war" signs to show their defiance of the national laws and any particular war. Their "commendable" (?) motto serves only as a front for many who live as a law unto themselves, ignoring most other standards of morality and right. Certainly a Christian should practice love to all men instead of war; but it must also be accompanied with every other form of obedience and submission that God requires.

How many young men do you know who have had their standard of morality and conduct lowered considerably after a time of service in the armed forces? The list is long.

#### AND SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FELLOWS

When you reach the age of 18 you will be required to register with the selective service board in your home county. At that time, if you are a Christian, and if it is your sincere conviction that you would not be serving God by serving as a soldier of war, then be sure to sign your name in the proper place on your registration form. This will be found in the paragraph titled for the Conscientious Objector only. Let it not be once named of you that any other reason was ever used for signing this belief than a deep and sincere desire to serve God, in every way.

When you begin to fill out the second form asking you of your belief as a conscientious objector, you should use great care to give accurate and sincere answers that well describe your belief and the teachings of the Bible. You may wish to consult your pastor for assistance.

# Teen Guidelines



## What Should I Wear?

by Calvin Burrell

The purpose of this article is to consider what is proper, as well as improper, dress for Christians. This subject is important because the Bible says it is; and I want you to read with an open mind and a prayerful heart, not holding onto all your previous notions about fashions unless they can stand the test of serious Bible-based reasoning.

The Bible states in 1 Timothy 2:9 that women should "adorn themselves in *modest* apparel," previously stating that this should be in like manner with the man. This does not mean that their clothing should be alike (specifically condemned in Deuteronomy 22:5), but instead that both men and women should dress *modestly*.

### WHAT IS MODESTY?

Modesty, insofar as dress is concerned, has the opposite meaning of shameful. Shameful dress would be any manner of dress which exposes or calls unnatural attention to that

portion of the human body which the Bible calls "nakedness," or a man's "shame." Thus modest dress must properly cover all of a man's or woman's nakedness without calling unnatural attention to it.

### BIBLE SAY-SO

Certain scriptures will help us in determining how much of a person's body should be regarded as nakedness. In several instances Bible characters were described as "naked" while likely still being clothed in undergarments (John 21:7 and 2 Samuel 6:20). A man or woman today clothed no more extensively than "underwear" (short shorts, bikini outfits, etc.) in public, could not be considered modest. Isaiah 20:4 points out that buttocks (hips) are nakedness; Exodus 28:42 and Isaiah 47:2 and 3 include from the waist as far down as the thigh as being part of the body's nakedness, both men and women. Certainly the "topless" or "see-

through" tops for women that are fashionable in some areas today cannot be considered modest by scriptural definition (Ezekiel 23:3, 8, 10). Extra tight clothing and most see-through garments are worn for the same purpose, with the same scriptures applying.

### SKIRT LENGTH:

For the past several years, ladies' clothing styles have experienced a steady rising of hem lines. This trend has caused considerable discussion among Christian women: Where does a modest skirt length end and an immodest one begin?

It doesn't really make sense to say that "so many inches" above or below the knee is the proper skirt length. God does not measure His standards of decency by inches. The knee is the only distinct dividing line between ankle and hip; it is the only natural division between the lower leg and the upper leg. If women begin to allow dresses above their knees, they have no logical place left to draw a line. God's Word classifies these parts of the upper leg as nakedness. It seems logical from this that a woman will wear skirts covering to her knee if she wishes to be modestly dressed.

### BOY VS. GIRL

Quite often a young lady will ask, "Why are all the sermons on dress aimed at us, and nothing ever said about the guys?" While recognizing some truth in this complaint, and agreeing that the Bible endorses no double standard for modesty, it is still valid that a woman needs to be doubly careful about this matter.

For one thing, the Bible itself seems to place more stress upon a woman's habits of dress than the man's. She is naturally inclined to be more fashion-minded than the male, and more of her body is considered nakedness, making it easier for her to offend in this matter. But...

### ... THE REAL DANGERS

You see, a girl is hardly affected (perhaps only by embarrassment) if she happens to see a young man not wearing a shirt, or otherwise not fully clothed. But, with boys it's a different story! If a girl should appear before the boys wearing only a bikini or other scanty clothing, the guys will soon be attracted by her body. Unless he is strong-willed enough to turn away, a fellow may soon be guilty of improper lust toward the girl. At this point he's not much concerned about her personality, character, religious standards, etc. These are temptations that any Christian fellow can do much better without.

The danger here is very real: there is a link between modern habits of (un)dress, and the great amount of immorality, fornication, rape and emphasis on sex in our society today! I quote from an article in the March, 1968 BIBLE ADVOCATE, written by Trinidad Padilla:

"People who have something to sell usually show and advertise it to the public. If a woman is not selling her body on the altar of lust, let her take it off the display counter."

Girls, God has given you an attractive body, intended for the appreciation and sharing of your husband, in marriage. Keep it clothed, protected, and pure,—for him.

## DRESS WITH THE FASHIONS

The real difficulty one often experiences in matters of dress is the pressure of the styles. We often feel a desire to conform to the accepted clothing of the "in-group"; and what's worse, that's often the only kind you may be able to find in the clothing shops.

Just because everyone else is wearing a certain style of clothing does not make it modest. Remember that Christians are not to be conformed to worldly ways, but we are called out people to uphold true standards of decency and holiness. 1 Peter 1:14, 15 speaks of Christians "As obedient children, not *fashioning* yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: . . . so be ye *holy* in all manner of conversation (including dress)."

This does not mean that we will need to dress as oddballs. I believe that Christian young people should dress neatly, attractively, and modestly; and it can be done! There are neat, attractive styles other than the immodest ones of the world. Careful shopping and a willingness to sew some for yourself can keep your wardrobe in good looks and proper variety.

### FADS:

American youth are continually seeing new clothing styles come quickly into popularity, and then fade from popular use soon afterward. Such movements, although not necessarily exposing the nakedness of the wearers, usually attract great attention to those brave ones who begin the fad, and stamp as "conformists" all those who blindly follow the leader. As Christians we are not to conform to all the faddish ways of the

world; neither are we to call unusual attention to ourselves by oddball manners of dress which would certainly not be modest.

Quite often clothing fads are originated to distinguish a special group or class of people. Following this fad would identify us as one who shares the beliefs of this group. "Hippie" style clothing is one example of this, and should be avoided by young people who wish to be identified with God's people.

### MAKING THE DECISION

Every one of us must face squarely this question: "Will I yield to the pressure of the world to be like other people, or, will I heed God's quiet call to submit myself as a holy child of His?" I believe that the way we dress every day, no matter what we may profess differently, really gives us the true answer.

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### HIGH RESOLVE

**"What an absurd thing it is to pass over all the valuable parts of a man, and fix our attention on his infirmities."—Joseph Addison, English poet and essayist (1672-1719)**

**I'll hold my candle high, and then  
Perhaps I'll see the hearts of men  
Above the sordidness of life,  
Beyond misunderstandings, strife.**

**Though many deeds that others do  
Seem foolishness, and sinful, too,  
Were I to take another's place,  
I could not fill it with such grace.**

**And who am I to criticize  
What I perceive with my dull eyes?  
I'll hold my candle high, and then  
Perhaps I'll see the hearts of men.**

—Selected

# Introducing . . .

## National FYC Committeemen

### AUTOBIOGRAPHY

by Kenneth Knoll



Often autobiographies begin with supposedly humorous statements concerning the individual's birth; however, the part of my life that I want to share with you begins at a much

later time—during my high school years.

It was toward the latter part of my high school years that I first began to feel God calling me to work for Him. For some time afterward, I suppressed this calling as I sought other things rather than God's will. I was enjoying life and I did not want to take time off to work for God. Soon, however, my little bundle of security was broken when I lost my job and my car. No longer could I afford the luxury of running around without any definite purpose and suddenly it was not important. God spoke to me one night and, immediately, I told Him I would go to Midwest to prepare for the ministry. Since that night I have obtained a greater security—an inner contentment.

Through my college years, God

spoke to me in various ways with signposts which pointed to the continuance of my study for the ministry. For example, the much-needed money always came right when I needed it. During this time, I was elected to serve as a National Youth Committeeman. I consider myself to be a National FYC'er and it is a great joy to share in the progress of God's work through the youth. I only pray that I can be of some help in showing God's way to other young people.

Now I am serving my internship in Conroe, Texas. Still I am not sorry for my decision. The internship experience is invaluable but I eagerly look forward to the day when I will be pastoring my own church.

Have you decided what you want out of life? Stop for a moment and consider—Do you want wealth? Security? Is it fame and success that you want? Perhaps it is a higher education. Or perhaps it is eternal life. Do you really know what you want?

Recently a story was related to me concerning a man whose career was centered around sports. He could not decide what he wanted to do for he was fairly good at both boxing and wrestling. As a result, he divided his time and effort between the two sports and never was able to achieve