

Women's Life



May 2004

Two Summer Outfits: His Righteousness, Modest Clothing

As a follow-up to February's forum, *A Biblical Response to Sexuality*, the topic of how we as women dress seems appropriate for a May issue of *Women's Life*. What message do we want to send as we choose clothing for the warmer weather? We certainly want to appear feminine, not frumpy. How does any age woman who wants to look her best, and dress modestly, begin to shop when the culture offers clothing short on fabric in every direction? For mothers of teenage daughters, shopping for summer clothes can be a particularly challenging task. Two "outfits" come to mind: the righteousness God clothes us with, and the modest clothing that, though harder to find, is available.

"Clothed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand." This hymn reminds me of the most valuable outfit in my closet. The Lord has dressed me in His righteousness. The Proverbs 31 woman is "clothed in scarlet, clothed in fine linen and purple, and clothed with strength and dignity" (Prov. 31 21,22,25).

Isaiah 61:10 says,

"I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."

Finally, Galatians 3:27 reminds me, "for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

Then would I put on a cleavage-showing prom dress? Garden in my short, tight '80s summer shorts? Buy a "shrink-wrap" top that features a clear view of my belly button ring? Wear a plunging neckline, backless sundress to worship? Without adding a dimension of legalism, how do I decide what is proper for a woman of God? In Ephesians 5:3a, Paul writes, "But among you

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there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity.” As I have meditated on that verse, culled some items out of the closet at my house, and made careful purchases, so I’d encourage other women and daughters to do the same. Really deciding what pleases the King is not a matter of rules and skirt lengths, but a matter of the heart. How would I dress if I really believed Psalm 45:11? “The king is enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord.”

Flo Wolfe



History of Mother’s Day

Beginning in the 1600’s, England celebrated Mothering Sunday on the 4th Sunday of Lent. In the United States, Mother’s Day was first suggested in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe (author of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*) as an appeal to women to stand against war.

Her *Mother’s Day Proclamation* envisioned “a general congress of women without limit of nationality” that would come together to promote “the great and general interests of peace.” “Why,” she asked, “do not the mothers of mankind interfere in these matters to prevent the waste of that human life of which they alone bear and know the cost?”

Anna Reese Jarvis worked for it, as well. During the Civil War she had organized brigades of women to provide relief to both Union and Confederate soldiers, urging women to maintain neutrality. She later created a Mother’s Friendship Day to help heal the emotional wounds from the war. She died in 1905, without seeing the national holiday established.

Mrs. Jarvis’ daughter, also named Anna, then took up the cause in honor of her mother. In 1907, she persuaded her mother’s church in Grafton, WV to celebrate Mother’s Day on the second anniversary of her mother’s death, the 2nd Sunday of May. The next year her own church in Pennsylvania celebrated it.

Ms. Jarvis and her supporters began a writing campaign to ministers, businessmen, and politicians. By 1911 Mother’s Day was celebrated in almost every state. President Wilson, in 1914, proclaimed Mother’s Day a national holiday to be held each year on the 2nd Sunday of May.

Happy Mother’s Day, Ladies!

Carpet Help

Learn all you need to know about the care of carpets and rugs. The manufacturer’s recommendations, stain removal and how to keep your rugs beautiful longer. It’s all on The Carpet and Rug Institute’s website.

www.carpet-rug.com

For the parent who is hurting

Seeing their lives take shape, for good or ill, parents of adult children confront snares of their own. Physical ones among them (just when we think we understand *life*, strength fails). Yet when we cry, feeble it may be, our Father hears.

He moves heaven and earth to draw us from deep waters. He rescues us from despair—the deadliest of our enemies—and He is our support, bringing us out into a spacious place for He delighted in you and me. What wondrous love is this O my soul?

So, what do we know that is true?

1. You love God, and He is your strength.
2. He is your rock, upon which you stand and in whom you hide, and He is your deliverer. Hiding yourself completely in Him, laying hold of His promises, the crushing pain in your heart abates.
3. He has plans for you, plans to do you good, and not ill.
4. He has similar plans for our children embarking on the next phase of their lives, or stumbling badly on an unwise path.
5. When you lay hold of the horn of your salvation, nothing can harm you.

But what about our prodigals, Lord? As He saves us from our enemies, He reminds us: He is keeping watch and will run to greet that wandering one, seeing him or her before they have caught sight of their home.

For this reason, we have not stopped praying for all our children, by name, asking God to fill each, the willing and the wayward, with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this so each precious child may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. Perhaps our season to pray for our prodigals is longer and drier than others, yet He will care for all we commend to His Hand.

So, we won't fear the depths, or tremble at the heights along which He leads us, and our loved ones. The dimmer our eyes, the nearer His love as He turns our darkness into light.

Rest, exercise, and drink water – physically and spiritually. It worked for Elijah! God will be the fuel of our faith, and with Him we can advance against a troop. With our God we can scale a wall—even on the mornings we ache too much to roll off our beds!

May the Lord who lives bless you with everything you need to be the parent He created you to be. (Psalm 18, 23, Colossians 1:9-15)

Barbara Smith



Mother

Mere	(France)
Mutter	(Germany)
Maji	(Hindi)
Umee	(Urdu)
Mzaa	(Swahili)
Madre	(Italian)
Máthair	(Irish)
母親	(Chinese)

Post it
notes
(1980)

May 2004

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
2	3	4 <i>Bible Study 9:30am</i> <i>Prayer Mtg. 10:00am</i> <i>Single Moms 6:30pm</i>	5 <i>Body & Soul 9:15am</i> <i>Playgroup 10:00am</i>	6 <i>Craft Circle</i> National
9 Mother's Day	10	11 <i>Bible Study 9:30am</i> <i>Brainstorming Noon</i> <i>Prayer Mtg. 10:00am</i> <i>Single Moms 6:30pm</i>	12 <i>Body & Soul 9:15am</i> <i>Florence Nightengale born (1820)</i> <i>MOPS 7:00pm</i> <i>Playgroup 10:00am</i>	13 <i>Craft Circle</i>
16	17 <i>First Merry-go-round (1620)</i>	18 <i>Bible Study 9:30am</i> <i>Prayer Mtg. 10:00am</i> <i>Single Moms 6:30pm</i>	19 <i>Body & Soul 9:15am</i> <i>Playgroup 10:00am</i>	20 <i>Craft Circle</i> <i>Levi Strauss of jeans (1</i>
23	24	25 <i>Bible Study 9:30am</i> <i>Prayer Mtg. 10:00am</i> <i>Single Moms 6:30pm</i>	26 <i>Body & Soul 9:15am</i> <i>Playgroup 10:00am</i>	27 <i>Craft Circle</i>
30 <i>Pentecost</i>	31 Memorial Day			

Next brainstorming lunch

May 11, Noon in the Ministry Center

<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1
e Noon Day/Prayer	7 <i>Body & Soul 9:15am</i>	8 <i>Coke invented (1886) Scrapbooking 9:00am</i>
e Noon	14 <i>Body & Soul 9:15am</i>	15 <i>Moms of College Kids 9:00am</i>
e Noon ss' first pair (874)	21 <i>Body & Soul 9:15am</i>	22
e Noon	28 <i>Body & Soul 9:15am</i>	29



We can be confident that all things work for good to those who love God and are called according to His purposes. Yet we needn't fear that such goodness means we must go without the good things that this life has to offer. Holiness and deprivation are not flip sides of the same coin. On the contrary, God's goodness, bound up with producing personal holiness in each of us, conduces to our happiness. God's goodness is as trustworthy and safe as his sovereignty.
 (Lydia Brownback)



Things change

This newsletter has a long lead time - plans can change before it arrives in your mailbox. Be sure to check the weekly bulletin for updated information.

Thots and Things

Barry's Steak Prep

This is what I learned to do from Barry, in order to get the maximum flavor out of steak. You take your steak, smear yellow prepared mustard all over it. Sprinkle Worcestershire sauce over it, and smear that together. Sprinkle seasoned salt and pepper over it, then stab it all over with a fork, visualizing that you are pushing the seasonings deep into the steak while you jab it. Let it sit around for a few hours, in the fridge. (This doesn't cure toughness, but it sure does make it taste better while you chew.)

Broil or grill until it is medium rare. If you try this recipe with a well-done steak, please don't tell anyone you got it from us. Barry's recipe is only for medium rare. It's your recipe if you go for well done.

Susan Smith



M&M's book for May and June

Ordering your Private World (Gordon Macdonald)

Our first book club selection, *When Life and Beliefs Collide* (Carolyn Custis James) left us with one resounding message: the strength of a woman's theology is her greatest gift to her family, her church and her culture. Our second book, *Five Women of the English Reformation* (Paul Zahl) showed us how that message took on flesh and blood in the 16th century, when a tiny band of theologically astute women helped to bring about the Protestant Reformation.

How do *we* become great theologians—the kind of people Carolyn James describes as those whose “hearts are captivated by God himself, who cling to the truth in life, who humbly kneel to adore him, and whose lives are transformed by what they have learned”?

That's where our third book club selection comes in. In *Ordering Your Private World*, Gordon MacDonald teaches us practical ways to cultivate “the private world where Christ chooses to live.” His book examines motivation, use of time, wisdom and knowledge, spiritual strength and rest. You are invited to join us in learning some of the disciplines Christ uses to shape us more and more into His image.

Christiane Carlson-Thies

100 Gift Mixes— Cocoa, Coffee, Tea and Cappuccino

is an e-book you can purchase for \$5.00. There are 33 cocoa recipes alone.

For giving—or doing something nice for yourself!

www.frugalhome-maker.com/giftmixes.htm

Micki's Corner

The word *mentor* sounds too much like a title, doesn't it. Like it requires a degree program. Most of us think we have too many problems ourselves to be a mentor.

But the Oxford Dictionary defines a mentor as an "experienced and trusted advisor." Nothing about a degree program! Let's break it down into its three parts:

Experienced. Experience comes from living through something—job hunting, planning a wedding, remodeling a kitchen, and the harder things like a death or a divorce. Think of the things you have lived through. Could you help someone else through them?

Trusted. A mentor is someone with a track record, someone who has earned trust—and continues to earn it. Keeping confidences is one way to do that. What's shared with you shouldn't become *public domain*—it's still her life and she's the only one who can legitimately share part of it.

Advisor. If you have lived through something, you know what worked and what you wish you had done differently. You don't have to have all the answers or develop a plan for her life. Listen, ask questions and share your thoughts. And pray for her and with her.

Wouldn't you have liked someone to help you that way? Think about sharing what you've learned with someone else.

Micki Parkinson

Micki's note: Muffy was 12 years old in March. For those of you who've asked about my *Muff 'n me* stories, you can enjoy them again at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~glennparkinson/index.htm> (Just click on her picture!)



Behind the Scenes of *Women's Life*

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Micki Parkinson, Design and Editing

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