

USELESS ADORNMENT

Just because a few persons go to an extreme in harping on dress and outward adornment, the great majority of so-called holiness people seem to pay no attention to the extravagances in dress and jewelry which is swamping so many souls in darkness. There are some of the holiness people so fastidious and squeamish that they cannot bear to have their outer adornment alluded to without showing uneasiness. It is true that we must drive mainly at the heart, and get that right; but poor human nature is so blind and slow to learn that we must, according to God's Word, look after the practical details of holiness as well as the doctrine and experience. It is a shame to see so many professing holiness all dangled off in the heathenish habit of wearing jewelry.

You ask, "Where is the dividing line in this matter of what, and what not, to put on?" I say that in legitimate articles of dress no one can draw the absolute line, but in articles of jewelry which are absolutely useless, it seems that any one ought to be able to draw the line.

Ear-rings, finger-rings, bracelets, gold chains, charms, trinkets, etc., are not articles of clothing; they add nothing to brains or beauty; they add nothing to comfort or convenience; they give neither protection, nor health, nor beauty to the human body; they are all absolutely without a rational use, and conduce to nothing in the universe but vanity. Now anything that is utterly useless can only be harmful.

You say the wearing of jewelry is a life-long habit with you, and does not stand in your way. I reply that many sins are life-long habits, and do not stand in the way of those that commit them. Some have been lying, stealing and backbiting ever since childhood, and they say these things do not stand in their way; they can commit these sins, day after day, just as thoughtlessly as you can trick yourself out in these useless ornaments.

You say that your rings, bracelets or charms were inherited from your dear parents, and that you wear them for their sake. Well, you also inherited your depravity from your parents; some persons inherit a thirst for liquor from their parents; and if we are going into the heirloom business, why not deck ourselves out in all the vices of our parents? If one is decked out in dear old grandmother's jewelry, why should not another be decked out in dear old grandfather's drunkenness? Where is the difference? If we are born of God, we must drop the inherited things of the first Adam, and put on the inherited things of the second Adam.

You say the wearing of jewelry does not hurt you? That is just what people say who drink wine, use tobacco, or dance. You say you can enjoy the love of God, or have a clean heart, and wear useless ornaments, which the Word of God forbids, and say it does not hurt you. If you would follow all the words of Scripture, it would hurt you. Nay, it does already hurt you more than you dream of. It may be you are praying for more liberty, more power — you may wonder why the loved ones in your family are not converted, or sanctified — you never suspect that your jewelry hurts you. Ah, my friends, the devil has six thousand years' practice on human nature; he knows

how to cripple Christians, and yet to hide from their eyes the very things that are crippling them. If God's Word is true, then the wearing of useless jewelry and ornaments does hurt you, in spite of all you say or think or feel to the contrary.

Some say, "Why. I never think of these little ornaments." Well, if you never think of them, why do you always remember to put the stuff on? What a lovely sight to see men and women modestly attired, with bright salvation faces, with ears, and hands and necks clean from the senseless trappings of vanity. And what an ugly, incongruous sight to see persons professing holiness, all tricked out in Satan's trash!

You say, "Get the heart right first," but your heart will not stay right if you keep on the eternal garb of satan.—Geo. D. Watson.

FOR IF I BUILD AGAIN THE THINGS WHICH I DESTROYED, I MAKE MYSELF A TRANSGRESSOR

(Gal. 2:18)

Ever since God made man, it has been the privilege for man to build, and all down through these many years man has been building things, some to honor and some to dishonor.

Since the fall of Adam in the garden, man started to build things for dishonor, and this kind of work had been costing our world too much these past years.

I often like to watch man, as he goes through with a new building project, and I will often wonder what shall be his next move. I notice many times, how he will go to the blueprint, for information, as we Christians should be going to the Word of God. How easy it would be for him to disregard the blueprint, and in so doing, the building would never pass inspection. Too many people these days will not follow the blueprint, and their building will not stand the test. One way of building strong characters is to study the Word of God, which to every Christian in his blueprint. Man cannot devote time to the devil and expect to understand the blueprint which God has placed in his keeping.

It would be good for us to watch man while at his work. Would any sane person, after finding out that a bridge had been condemned, because the material in it had become old, look about to secure some old material to rebuild with? If he did, it would never pass the test, or stand under the load, yet we see people building just that way, when they start again to attend so many worldly pleasures, pleasures that had been given up when they first found God. Many of our Christian people have been doing just what God has been telling them not to do, building again the things they once destroyed and in so doing have become transgressors.

I don't think I know of any person that has found God, but what they had to destroy a few things. The Holy Spirit has been telling us ever since Jesus came into our hearts, just what to destroy, that we might soon feed on the meat of the Word, and the best way for any person to get started on the meat is, to stay away from the things which had been destroyed at conversion (moving pictures, the dance, etc.) How any person can endorse the movies over again, when God had told them not to build again the things which had been destroyed, I don't know, but I do know when they do they become transgressors, I would not want to judge such peo-

ple, but God has said again in His word, by their fruits ye shall know them, Matt. 7:20.

God has given so much, He gave Jesus Christ, His Son, that we might all be saved, and yet with all this, man has been building on the devil's territory so much these days, that we find our world plunged into another war.

One thing I love about the word of God is, it has given to us all the right way to build, and told about the wrong way too, but I can't find in his great blueprint, how one can keep saved, if they allow any of the devil's material to come back on the job.

I never have known of any person to be very spiritual that would take in the movies or any other questionable amusement. The first thing for any person to learn is, that we have a no harm devil and he will do his best to keep the child of God from knowing very much about Holiness.

The question of material will come up, when we have to build, so it is important for us to select good material, and never mix the good with the bad, if we are to make our building to stand the test. We have a warning given in the Word of God about this (new wine in old bottles) so it is with the Christian that walks over on the devil's territory. The wine was lost and so can we be lost, if we don't stay clear of the things of this world. In order for us to get the devil's material, we have to go over on his side after it, and let all know when they go they can't get there by way of Holiness. Too many people have been lost doing just that thing.

It would be sound advice to all, that we might take heed how we build, lest we fall. It was because of the fall of man that Jesus shed His blood, to redeem us. God help every believer so to build, that when Jesus comes, He will say: Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

CLARENCE D. DOW

IT CAN BE DONE

For a number of years I have known a family of eleven who have always gone to church regularly, even though some might think they were well supplied with excuses.

These parents and their nine children always have been poor, and—need I add this?—have never owned a car. The father, however, did have a coal truck which he used every day to support his family. Their home was three miles from the church in the country, and they had no trolley or bus line at their disposal when the children were small. But my friends did go to church, every one of them, from the baby up to the father. Every Sunday the coal truck was lined with clean newspapers and filled with clean children! And through cold rains and hot sunshine they taxied to church. Would you like to know how the eleven are faring today?

Two of the sons have finished college and seminary and are serving as ministers. One daughter is a nurse, the supervisor of wards in a large hospital. Two other girls are secretaries to government officials, and a younger boy has just won a high school scholarship.

Now that most of the members of the family live away from home, do you wonder if they keep their interest in the Church? No one who is acquainted with them ever thinks to ask that question, for they know the answer.—Townsend Richards in The Christian Advocate.