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"AGED WOMEN...TEACH THE YOUNG WOMEN" - PLEASE!!

Women Are More Macho

by Boyd T. Sellers

Women are becoming more macho and are drinking more beer, according to a recent poll by a Chicago advertising agency. The poll, which was conducted in 1979, found that 29 percent of women surveyed said they could defend themselves in a fistfight, compared to 19 percent in 1976.

The poll, reported for *HEALTH* magazine, said 27 percent of women surveyed said they could defend themselves in a fistfight, compared to 19 percent in 1976.

The study said 29 percent of the women polled drink beer in a bar. In 1979 only 23 percent did, according to the 1984 lifestyle by Needham, Harper, and Steer, a Chicago advertising agency.

As for fighting, the answers asked by the poll

takers indicated that "these women defend themselves if somebody takes a poke at them, whether it be a man or woman," a spokesman for the agency said.

Needham, Harper, and Steer

There is an old picture in the bible that of the virtuous woman. Her price is "far above rubies." King Lemuel tells us (Prov. 31:10). In the verses that follow he describes the virtuous woman worthy of praise. She is worth something to her husband, parents, neighbor, and God. THAT is the kind of woman who deserves praise! But the accompanying article praises another kind of woman - a "macho" woman who is described as a female that likes sports cars, fights, and drinks beer in a bar. Boy, have things gotten turned around. Let me just ask (please don't consider me too naive) -- of what practical value is a "macho" woman? I mean, who wants or

Continued on Page 2

needs a woman who drinks beer in a bar and fistfights? Even if we left the Bible out of this, whose list would include such a female as a woman to be praised? Not this son, husband, father!! Frankly, the report made me sick at my stomach. And it concerns me that young ladies of our day might be swayed by this "macho" image.

God's instructions to women are designed to teach them what they need to do and be to be of value to God, to themselves and to others. God's woman is NOT "macho". She is modest and sensible in her demeanor as one who professes to be godly (2 Tim. 2:9,10). She is humble and submissive to her husband (Eph. 5:22-23). The emphasis of her life is not just to look good. She is not concerned with her outward appearance. She is primarily concerned with the "hidden man" which she adorns with a "meek and quiet spirit which is in the sight of God OF GREAT PRICE" (1 Pet. 3:1-7). The Bible

abounds with examples of such good women. There's Hannah and Naomi and Ruth and others in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, there are virtuous women like Mary; the mother of Jesus, Elizabeth; the mother of John, Mary and Martha of Bethany, etc. Mothers and grandmothers, please teach our young women to be like these. Teach them to see the folly and cheapness of the "macho" image. Paul instructed aged women to "teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands..." (Titus 2:3-5)

There are times when young women fail to see the preciousness of such a woman and they are led to think that the "macho" woman is the ideal woman. They need to be taught. Aged women... teach the young women...PLEASE!!

YOU NEED TO ATTEND CHURCH!

Tom Moody

Just about everyone thinks that going to church is nice. But it is time that many realize that church attendance is necessary if they are going to avoid eternit in hell with all the wicked!

1. THE IRREVERENT AND IRRELIGIOUS need to realize that they are the creation of Almighty God (Rom. 1:20-21). Infidels, professing themselves to be wise, became fools (Rom. 1:22). They are in dire need of repenting of their sins, humbling themselves before God and giving unto Him the praise and worship of which He is worthy.

2. THOSE IN DENOMINATIONS ought to attend church. However, they need to get away from the unscriptural, man-pleasing, conscience soothing "church of your choice" idea and determine to attend the church of Christ's choice!

Jesus promised to build HIS church (Matt. 16:18). Jesus bled to purchase HIS church (Acts 20:28). Jesus is the Saviour of THE body (His church) (Eph. 5:23). The New Testament reveals to us a clear

pattern for local churches of Christ to follow in worship, organization, and work. Therefore, it is not sufficient that we attend worship somewhere, but we must worship as God directs. Jesus built no denominations. If a denominational church is where you worship, you should "come out from among them", be just a Christian, and attend regularly to worship with New Testament Christians.

"But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:9)

3. MEMBERS OF THE LORD'S CHURCH should attend worship!

Can it be true that those who have once been purged from sin, and have tasted the good word of God, having been saved by grace, would actually have to be exhorted to gather with their brethren and worship their God?? Sadly and tragically churches of Christ across the land will generally have an element - perhaps 20%, 30%, or even 50% of the

Continued on Page 3

membership - who cannot be depended upon when the church assembles! A congregation which has 100 on Sunday morning may average only 60-70 on Sunday night. A church with 200 on Sunday morning may only have 120 on Sunday night. This is because almost every church has members who apparently do not realize that their unfaithfulness will cause them to be lost in hell!

While we are commanded not to "forsake the assembling of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:25), there will be members of almost every congregation who deceive themselves into thinking they are faithful when they attend perhaps only 25% of the time (one hour on Sunday morning) - and that does not even account for times they are out sick, on vacation, or kept away by some "emergency", or

gospel meetings they do not attend.

Brethren, we need to attend worship and Bible study! We need to attend so that we can be uplifted by fellowship with other Christians. We need to attend so that we can learn how to please God as we study God's word together. We need to attend because we need to praise and worship God. We need to attend because we need to set the proper example before our children, other Christians, and the lost. We need to attend because in failing to attend, we will gradually become more and more like the infidels who failed to glorify God, and finally lost the very knowledge of God. We need to if we want to go to heaven.

Can we count on YOU the next time - and every time - the congregation meets??

DO DEMONS POSSESS PEOPLE TODAY?

Edward O. Bragwell, Jr.

Occasionally, I run into those who want to know whether or not demons possess people today. Sometimes we see accounts of supposed demon possessions in newspapers, in magazines, or on television shows. Demon possession has also been a favorite subject in Hollywood, with such movies as "The Exorcist" and "The Omen". With so much fanciful material bombarding our lives, it is no wonder that we run into people who have questions concerning this. Let's, then, look at what the Bible says about it.

First of all, one who examines the Bible will have to immediately admit that demons or unclean spirits did possess people in the days of Christ. There are numerous examples. There was the man in the synagogue. (Mark 1:23-28) There were the two men of the Gergesenes. (Matt. 8:28-34) There was Mary Magdalene. (Mark 16:9) There were others as well. Jesus demonstrated his power by casting out these demons, and was even wrongly accused of using Satan's power to cast

them out. (Matt. 12:24) The power to cast out these demons was also given to His disciples. (Matt. 10:1; Luke 10:17) So no one can deny the fact that demon possession did occur at one time.

The question that we want to address, however, is whether or not demons still possess people today. Let me say from the outset that I believe that the Bible strongly indicates that people ceased to be possessed by demons after the days of the New Testament. There are several things that causes one to come to this conclusion. First, the ability to cast out demons was usually connected with the ability to speak in tongues, heal people of diseases, and to prophesy. (Mark 16:17,18; Matt. 10:1; cf. Matt. 7:22) We know from I Corinthians 13 that the ability to prophesy and the ability to speak in tongues ceased with the coming of the complete revelation of God. We realize that in general, the miraculous spiritual gifts that the early disciples possessed, were given to them in

I'm sure, however, that there may be some reading this who will say, "Alright, I realize that the ability to prophesy and speak in tongues have ceased, because they are specifically mentioned as things that would pass away. But demon possession is not so mentioned, so how can you be so sure that it ceased at the same time?" I think that we can turn to Old Testament prophecy for that answer. Several Messianic prophecies tell us about what will take place during the time that the Messiah's kingdom is established. One such prophecy is found in Isaiah 60:1-2. Here Isaiah tells us that all nations will be drawn to the Messiah's kingdom and Jerusalem will become a city of peace and righteousness. Isaiah also says that the sun and moon will be made visible by night and that the people will be able to see the glory of God. The prophet also says that other things would happen on that day. He says that the name of the Lord would be cut off from the land, a reference to the fact that those in God's

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