

Appearances Do Matter

(Ephesians 5:15-21)

Most of us like our freedom, but as Christians, there may be times when we have to sacrifice some of our liberties for appearance sake. We must be constantly aware that nonbelievers are watching us closely, and be vigilant to present the best example possible. The Christian must be careful of the lifestyle they present, living day to day with wisdom toward those outside the body of Christ. (*Col. 4:5*) The mature Christian knows the will of God and simply put, there is some conduct which is unacceptable. Ephesians 5:17-18 uses the example of social drinking and drunkenness, which is considered wicked behavior and should never be demonstrated in the believer's life. The casual use of alcohol is considered a worldly activity, even by those who are in the world. We are not to love the world or the things in the world (*1 John 2:15*) and those who are outside the church are well pleased when we give in and participate in earthly, or unwholesome activities. What do you suppose our unchurched friends think when they see us participating in social activities during scheduled worship time?

Instead of being filled with liquid spirits, we are to be filled with God's Holy Spirit and spend our time in spiritual activities such as praise and prayers of thanksgiving. (*Eph. 5:18-20*) Yes, appearances do matter! We must all take a look into the mirror of God's word and be sure our faces aren't covered with the devil's dirt.

(*James 1:23-25*)

*Jay Launius – 2024
Maud church of Christ
Maud, Texas*