

## APPROPRIATENESS VS. CONVICTION

### Girls Sports

I remember Brother Hyles talking about his desire to be appropriate. He spoke of another church where the pastor wore a suit to a baseball game. Although not a sin, his clothing was no more appropriate than wearing jeans and a t-shirt to a wedding.

There is a movement that has taken our Biblical standard of modesty and made it a matter of appropriateness.

Society tells us, "To church or college class, a girl should wear skirts, dresses, and a modest top; but if she is playing volleyball, it is completely appropriate to wear shorts or whatever allows her to play comfortably and 'appropriately.'"



*Even pirates need to have some convictions about the way they show up to pillage a village.*

*These two pirate parents were once children in our church. Their incredible home and family are a testimony to the grace of God, Bible preaching, and a mountain of love.*

Placing our girls on a basketball court in boys' shorts and t-shirts is not appropriate, for those items are "man's apparel." Any honest Christian knows that is true.

The problem today is that society tells people what to wear, and preachers are too cowardly to simply say, "This attire is wrong, and we won't do that here."

I remember sitting at a girls' volleyball tournament when it hit me how the girls acted in such a terribly masculine way. Their behavior was a reflection of the boys' clothing they wore. From the way they stood to the way they sat on the bench when not playing -- head in their hands, elbows on their knees, knees spread apart -- absolutely nothing was lady-like. Then came the good spike, the high five, the growl of "in your face" victory. I walked out from the **last** volleyball game our church has held between us and other churches.



*A couples' activity to the Pismo dunes is very popular, but does not provide an excuse to change what we believe.*

The question is this: When God says a girl should be feminine, does that somehow change when she is on a basketball court? Is it appropriate for her to appear masculine on a volleyball court? From gestures to dress, facial expressions to attitude -- all should honor God and the Bible. **Girls are to be girls, and boys are to be boys. The lines should never get close.**

If these situations are appropriate to society but not Biblical standards, then we have to say they are wrong!

Weak-kneed people-pleasers in our pulpits are destroying the beliefs we hold dear, and I for one will not be influenced to change my convictions and beliefs.

*A hike to a waterfall is no reason to change what we believe about appropriate dress. Check out our church attendance, the number of teens in our youth group, the number of young people off in the ministry. Holding to your convictions won't hurt your precious numbers preacher. Do right and leave the numbers to God!*

Appropriate? Sure, I want to be appropriate in every situation as long as I do not violate the Scriptures. Our fundamental churches have begun adjusting their convictions to be appropriate to society's standards, a change which signals the end of the church Christ started. Christ is the Head, and it does not matter what society thinks.

