The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests,

a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Classes............9 A.M. Worship............ 10:00 A.M. Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study......7:00 P.M.

also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

Contact Information P.O. Box 680872 Prattville, AL 36067 Phone Numbers (334) 868-0801 E-Mail Address Web Address Web Address Proc. Box 680872 Prattville, AL 36067 Prattville, AL 36067



What We Should Want for Our Daughters

by Bryan Gibson

We can't be much help to our daughters unless what we want for them is the same as what God wants. And these will certainly make us one mind with Him.

We want our daughters to be beautiful—on the inside. And this begins with them turning from their sins to Christ, with them dying to self and living for Christ (Acts 11:21; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Galatians 2:20). They don't have to forsake fashion altogether (Proverbs 31:22), but they will discover things far more important, like being clothed with "strength and dignity" (Proverbs 31:25), with a "gentle and quiet spirit" (1 Peter 3:3-5), with the kind of beauty that never fades (Proverbs 31:30; 1 Peter 3:4). We see qualities all through the New Testament we desire for them—to be discreet, chaste, poor in spirit, meek, merciful, compassionate, tenderhearted, forgiving, kind, longsuffering, pure in heart, etc. We want them to hunger and thirst after righteousness; to mourn when they sin; to rejoice in

the Lord, even when times are hard; to learn what it means to be truly content. That's the beauty of Jesus and that's what we want to see in them.

We want our daughters to be rooted and grounded in the truth of God's word, to not be "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14). We've seen so many (men and women) latch on to the "flavor of the day," and we don't want that to happen to them. "Test the spirits, whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1); "Test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21)—we want them to do that, but to do that effectively (and to become good teachers themselves), they must be careful, diligent students of God's word.

We want our daughters to marry faithful Christians, partly, for selfish reasons. We want them to be treated well, and if they marry faithful Christians, they will be. They will have unselfish husbands (Philippians 2:3-4), husbands who love them as Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:25), husbands who love them "in word and in deed" (1 John 3:16-18). Not to mention they'll have someone with whom they can pray; someone who desires the same things for the children they do; someone with whom they can work together in the kingdom of God, like Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:24-26; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Romans 16:3-4).

We want them to be excellent wives, to be submissive and respectful toward their husbands (Ephesians 5:22-24, 33), to attend to their needs as well as their own (Philippians 2:3-4), to love them in word and in deed (1 John 3:18), to do them good as long as they live (Proverbs 31:12), and above all, to help them be prepared for the life to come.

We want them to be excellent mothers, like the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31; like Hannah, who said of her son Samuel, "I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life" (1 Samuel 1:11); like Eunice, who made sure her son Timothy knew the Scriptures from childhood (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15); like Elizabeth, who set the best kind of example for John by "walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless" (Luke 1:6). We want them to see this role of mother as one with great eternal significance (1 Timothy 2:11-15).

We want them to do good for others, like the virtuous woman who "extends her hands to the poor" and "reaches out her hands to the needy" (Proverbs 31:20); like Dorcas, who was "full of good works and charitable deeds" (Acts 9:36); like Phoebe, who was "a helper of many" (Romans 16:1-2). When they reach a more mature age, we want it to be said of them that they have "diligently followed every good work" (1 Timothy 5:10).

Finally, we want our daughters (and our sons) to live forever

and ever with the Lord.

"And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)—you just can't find more comforting words than those. If we prepare our children for this life without preparing them for the next, we have failed in the most tragic way.

