



family. However, I fear that this exaggerated presentation of such worldly behavior from religious leaders may not be as far away as we think from becoming the expectation within the religious world. Some months ago, I arrived early to the restaurant where some of the men here meet for breakfast every Wednesday. As I waited for the

others, a group of men were at the table next to me talking loud enough I could not help but hear every word they said. They were leaders for a local denominational church, and they were complaining about their preacher. As these “leaders” cursed and used vulgarity, one of the big complaints they had about their preacher was “he used to have a beer with people from time to time, but now he doesn’t any more.” They described themselves as [quote] “like everyone else” [unquote] drinking too much from time to time. “Everyone else” does not drink! The Bible teaches that drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:10). Christians should turn away from all intoxicating drink, not merely when it leads to drunkenness (1 Pet. 4:3). May all who preach at Olsen Park, now and so long as this congregation stands shun such worldly and sinful expectations of the conduct of a preacher and his family.



Faithful Sayings Issue 14.27 July 1, 2012

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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

14.27

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

July 1
2012



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Pat Goguen
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

The Soul Man

By Kyle Pope

The cable network *TV Land*, long known for replaying old shows such as *The Andy Griffith Show*, and *Leave It to Beaver*, recently introduced a new original series entitled *The Soul Man*. Starring the comedian known as “Cedric the Entertainer,” the program revolves around Cedric’s character who portrays a former R & B musician who left a music career in order to take over preaching responsibilities at the church where his father used to preach. Actress Niecy Nash, plays Cedric’s wife, a loud and aggressive woman, shown in every commercial for the program dressed in indecent, and revealing clothing. I have not seen the show, but commercials promoting its debut have filled every commercial break. In these advertisements intended to move viewers to watch the series, this “preacher” and his wife curse and use vulgar language, publicly act and dress with immodesty, and carry on “worship” services as if they were involved in a drunken party at a college fraternity. In an interview my wife saw with Nash, she was questioned about

her revealing clothing. She claimed that she herself was a preacher's daughter and wore nothing different on the series than she did growing up in the church where her father preached.

Once again, I have not watched this show, nor do I intend to. However, as a preacher this portrayal of a preacher's family is very troubling to me. Preacher's are

constantly under a microscope and evaluated by members of a congregation as well as visitors who attend services. Consciously or unconsciously every individual has his own definition of what he thinks a "preacher" and his family ought to be. Olsen Park, for the past four years has worked to train two young men in a structured preacher training program. Lord willing, after a short break, within six months to a year we plan to resume this effort with another young man. Now certainly, we should not be surprised that the producers of a television network series do not share our respect for biblical values. However, from a broader perspective I am moved to ask—*Is this really what the world thinks that a preacher should be?* Is this what the religious world is moving toward in its conception of what "the man behind the pulpit" ought to be? If so, within the church we must be on guard ourselves lest we allow the subtle influence of worldly expectations to color our own perceptions.

What does the Bible teach that a preacher ought to be? Paul told the young preacher Timothy, "**Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity**" (1 Tim. 4:12, NKJV). No preacher will ever be flawless, but the one who preaches the gospel should not try to influence the world by behavior that is as worldly as possible (with a little spirituality thrown in here and there). The preacher should strive "**in word**" and "**in conduct**" to be an example to others. Paul told the Ephesians, "**Let**

no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Eph. 4:29). How does cursing and vulgarity set an example for believers? Obviously it does not! I have urged the young men we have trained to avoid even euphemisms intended to *sound like* curse words. If we will give account to God for every idle word spoken (Matt. 12:36), Christians should avoid words with inappropriate or unclear meaning.

The Bible does not outline the specific character that should be demonstrated by a preacher's wife—in fact unlike elders and deacons, the Bible does not require that a preacher be married. Paul never married (cf. 1 Cor. 7:8; 9:5). We do see, however, in the qualifications for elders and deacons some qualities that should characterize those who set examples of leadership within the church. Paul wrote, "**Likewise their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things**" (1 Tim. 3:11). To be "**reverent**" and "**temperate**" indicates a woman who maintains self control. Wearing alluring and revealing clothing that uncovers the beauty of her body intended for her husband alone (cf. Lev. 18:8) is not "**temperate.**" Paul taught all women to "**adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation**" (1 Tim. 2:9). Young girls need the godly example of adult

women who will dress in beauty and dignity rejecting the styles and indecency of worldly standards. If wives are not to be "**slanderers**" it infers a control of the tongue. Peter taught that women should be adorned "**with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God**" (1 Pet. 3:4). A quiet, humble, submissive spirit is "**precious in the sight of God.**" This is not demonstrated by a loud, pushy, and aggressive demeanor.

We recognize that television producers like to shock their audiences. Perhaps, the very thing these producers find provocative about the raunchy premise of *The Soul Man* is the contrast it presents with what people generally expect from a preacher and his



Olsen Park church of Christ