

## Does God Care What We Wear?

-Cary Schmidt-

### Why Have a Student Ministry Dress Standard?

As a youth pastor, I am often asked about dress standards—from teens, from parents, and from other youth leaders. Do we have a dress standard? What is it? How do we enforce it? Why do we have one? What about visitors? The questions and the reasonings sometimes seem endless and can actually be seriously distracting from the central point of student ministry. To get straight to the point, this is a real issue in youth ministry in the twenty-first century, and many are looking for balanced, biblical answers.

As culture continually slips into sloppier and sleazier, many churches and families have all but given up this battle. Many are opting for the “well, God loves us no matter how we dress” approach to Christianity. And of course He does! No one argues that point. But God loves me regardless of how I *live* too! That’s just not a valid argument when considering “what to wear.” God’s love or acceptance isn’t the issue—pleasing Him and representing Him well are the issues.

I would like to explore the subject of dress from a student ministry perspective. If you are a parent, these articles will encourage you to consider biblical principles for your children and your own home. If you are a youth leader or pastor, this article will challenge you to reasonably define and compassionately lead your group environment to be honoring to the Lord. Either way, I hope we all decide to “raise the bar” for some very good, biblical reasons. I believe the Bible is very clear: YES, God does care what we wear.

In Matthew 11:7-9, Jesus is speaking about John the Baptist. While the central context of this passage is not about clothing, He draws a clear distinction be-

tween what a godly man wears and what would be worn in a pagan environment. (The term *soft clothing* in this passage refers to common homosexual practices of the day.) The Bible draws the same conclusion in Proverbs 7:10 when it says, “...the attire of an harlot.” Point being—different types of people dress differently, and clothing certainly identifies us with a lifestyle. To put one point of these verses in plain English: godly men don’t dress the same as effeminate men, and godly ladies don’t dress like harlots.

Would you consider with me your dress choices? Would you consider what you allow your teenager to wear in a variety of contexts, and would you let those decisions be subject to God’s will? If so, then I pray that the following considerations will challenge your thinking and provoke serious consideration of this matter. I recently gave our students and parents ten reasons why we have a student ministry dress standard, and why I have a dress standard for my family. Let me share three of them with you now and the rest over the next couple of articles.

**1. To please the Lord Jesus Christ and honor Him above all.** So many of our dress decisions are based purely on pleasing self and pleasing others. When you wake up and get dressed, for whom are you dressing? I Corinthians 10:31 teaches, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

**2. To submit to the biblical principle of modesty.** This is more of an issue with ladies because men are “sight oriented.” If you have a home with only girls, you may not really get this! What some ladies or moms think is “cute” is very often provocative. Dad must be the authority in this area, and moms should work to educate themselves on what their daughters “look like” through the eyes of young men.

I Timothy 2:9 teaches, “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel...”

**3. To submit to the biblical principle of appropriateness and to identify with godliness.** Philippians 4:5 teaches, “Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.” The definition of *moderation* is *appropriateness*. While young men might not have to struggle so much with modesty, they certainly should be taught what is appropriate dress for various environments.

It seems our young people are being taught that wearing their “ball-game” clothing to church is appropriate. It simply isn’t. When it comes to dress, we should have a higher respect for spiritual environments than we do for mowing the lawn. It’s the same reason we dress better for weddings and funerals—because we respect the people and the environment involved. Why should the Lord get *less* respect than the *dead*?

We’ve just barely scratched the surface of this topic. I pray that you will take these first three points and teach them to your teenagers, your children, or your youth group. Teens want to know “why.” They won’t always understand all of our rules, but this is one area where they are more than capable of connecting the dots—if we present them reasonably and biblically. Everybody knows that dress matters. It’s really just a matter of submitting our selfish wills to God and living to please Him first.

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# LEGISLATIVE NEWS

## Hearing on Obama's Education Agenda

On Thursday, May 20, 2009, [Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, testified](#) before the House Education and Labor Committee on the Obama Administration's Education Agenda. The "comprehensive agenda that addresses the needs at every level of our educational system, from expanding access to high-quality early childhood programs to improving the rigor of the academic programs in our K-12 schools to making college more affordable and accessible," was outlined by Secretary Duncan in attempts to gain Congressional support for the budget which includes funding programs "that work" and creating new programs aimed at creating efficiency.

Secretary Duncan argued the need to establish more funding through Title I that will encourage districts to develop and expand preschool programs, along with extending the Striving Readers program to \$370 million in order to "take a comprehensive approach to reading instruction, ensuring that students develop the basic skills as well as the reading comprehension that is so vital to their success in high school and beyond." The agenda would also include reinvesting in low-performing schools to accomplish a complete turnaround. According to Duncan, "I'd like to set a goal to turn around 1,000 low-performing schools a year for each of the next five years. I don't want to invest in the status quo. I want states and districts to take bold actions that will lead directly to the improvement in student learning."

However, when Secretary Duncan was asked what would happen to the students in the meantime, while the schools were in the process of "turning around" and if they would be given other options, Duncan simply replied that we need to "turn around the schools." What is important to note, in a hearing on the D.C. Scholarship Program that occurred last week, a boy currently enrolled in the program testified that the schools did not become bad overnight, and they will not get better overnight, therefore questioning what happens to those children currently enrolled in low-performing schools during this great reformation. Will a generation be lost?

The hearing also included discussion on teacher incentives, including alternative certifications as well as the support for reforming higher education loans and making college more affordable to all. While the majority of the issues discussed in the hearing received bipartisan support, Republican Member John Kline criticized the agenda, arguing there was not enough funding being provided to special education programs. [Ranking Member Howard McKeon also criticized](#) the abrupt end to the D.C. Scholarship Program, and encouraged the administration to support charter schools and look into other opportunities children and parents may be given.

Secretary Duncan did acknowledge that money is not always the answer when it comes to reforming the current school systems and bipartisan support would be necessary for successful results.

To Watch the Full Hearing: [Hearing on the Obama Administration's Education Agenda](#)

## The Truth Project Coming To North Carolina

The North Carolina Family Policy Council is pleased to announce that it will partner with Focus on the Family to offer [The Truth Project](#) worldview series. The first Truth Project training will be in Charlotte on Saturday, June 6, from 8:30 AM to 12:45 PM at the First Baptist Church of Charlotte. This event will be facilitated by The Truth Project staff with assistance from Matt Lytle, Ph.D., director of research for the North Carolina Family Policy Council. This training event is designed for those who would like to lead The Truth Project as a small group. In addition, the agenda focuses on training and vision components, supporting the worldview content.

The Truth Project Curriculum is a systematic and comprehensive biblical worldview study that looks at all of life. Conferences will equip participants to make a Christ-centered difference on culture by applying God's principles to daily life. Each conference session is designed to equip you to facilitate Focus on the Family's DVD-based Christian Worldview lessons.

If you can attend this important session, please register today with The Truth Project. [Online registration](#) is available.

[Click here](#) to see an overview of the lessons

## Majority of Americans Are Now Pro-Life

A recent [Gallup poll](#) found that more Americans are calling themselves pro-life than at any other time since Gallup started asking in 1995. Jumping seven percentage points in one year, 51 percent of Americans now identify as pro-life, while self-proclaimed pro-choice Americans shrank from 50 percent to 42 percent. In 1995, the results were very different with a full 56 percent of Americans identifying as pro-choice and only 33 percent as pro-life. The prior high for pro-life Americans was 46 percent in August 2001 and May 2002.

The results come as a surprise, since, according to Gallup, they have "found a strong tilt of public attitudes in favor of unrestricted abortion" the last four years. However, this most recent survey shows a trend toward limiting abortion to fewer circumstances. According to a recent Pew Research Center national survey, there has been an eight percentage-point drop since August in the number of Americans saying that abortion should be legal in all or most circumstances (54 percent down to 46 percent). That is coupled with an increase from 41 percent to 44 percent in the number who support abortion in few or no instances.

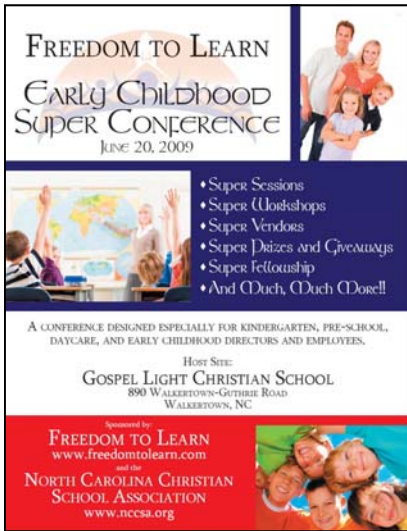
The survey also broke down the numbers by political party, political ideology, religion, and gender. Republicans are heavily responsible for the shift, with them now taking a 70-26 percentage-point pro-life view. In 2008, only 60 percent of Republicans identified themselves as pro-life. Democrats have been fairly constant around a 61-33 pro-life position. Ideologically, conservatives and moderates have shifted away from abortion. Conservatives identifying as pro-life jumped from 66 percent in 2008 to 71 percent in 2009. Pro-life moderates increased from 38 percent in 2008 to 45 percent in 2009. Protestants and Catholics both increased their pro-life percentages by at least seven percentage-points since last year. For the first time in nine years, "significantly more men and women are pro-life than pro-choice," according to Gallup. The pro-life position jumped six percentage-points among women to a plurality 49 percent and eight percentage-points among men to a majority 54 percent.

*"With the first pro-choice president in eight years already making changes to the nation's policies on funding abortion overseas, expressing his support for the Freedom of Choice Act, and moving toward rescinding federal job protections for medical workers who refuse to participate in abortion procedures, Americans -- and, in particular, Republicans -- seem to be taking a step back from the pro-choice position,"* according to Gallup editor Lydia Saad. *"However, the retreat is evident among political moderates as well as conservatives."*

She continued, *"It is possible that, through his abortion policies, Obama has pushed the public's understanding of what it means to be 'pro-choice' slightly to the left, politically. While Democrats may support that, as they generally support everything Obama is doing as president, it may be driving others in the opposite direction."*

# 2009 Freedom To Learn Early Childhood Super Conference

June 20, 2009—Gospel Light Christian School



The First Annual **Freedom To Learn Early Childhood Super Conference** will be held on **Saturday, June 20, 2009, at Gospel Light Christian School in Walkertown, NC.** This unique, one-day Conference is sponsored by Freedom to Learn and the North Carolina Christian School Association. We are excited to be able to offer this service to the early childhood employees in our ministries. This event is designed to meet the growing needs of daycares, preschools, kindergartens, and early childhood providers across our state. All NCCSA member schools are encouraged to make every effort to ensure that **all** of your early childhood directors, teachers, and workers are able to attend the special Conference that has been planned especially for them.

Delegate registration and check-in will be from 9:00-10:00 AM. The Conference begins at 10:00 AM and will include 5 exciting breakout workshop sessions, vendors, skits, door prizes, and much more. The Conference will conclude at 4:30 PM. **Lunch is also included in the registration fee.** All delegates will receive a CEU certificate for the contact hours earned from attending the Conference. Special conference pricing has been arranged for those needing overnight lodging. Gospel Light Christian

School is located at 890 Walkertown-Guthrie Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27101. To download more information on registration, conference schedule, lodging information, or workshop synopsis, please go to the Freedom to Learn website ([www.freedomtolearn.com](http://www.freedomtolearn.com)).

## 2009 NCCSA All-State Band Clinic

November 12-14, 2009

The 2009 NCCSA All-State Band Clinic will have an exciting change for this year's schools, students, and parents that attend. On Saturday, all performances will be held at the Meymandi Concert Hall in Raleigh, N.C. This is the same concert hall used by the N.C. Symphony, Broadway shows, and other musicals. This is a great opportunity for NCCSA and something that has been "in the works" for well over two years.

Many "seating and ticketing" options were considered, but to save money, tickets and seats will be general admission. The gates will open approximately one hour before the first performance, and tickets will be purchased at the Meymandi Concert Hall. Ticket prices have not been set as negotiations are still in progress with Meymandi Concert Hall. Many other details will be available in the coming months.



## 2009 NCCSA EDUCATORS' CONVENTION

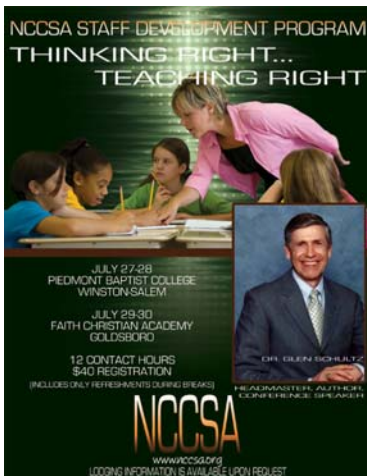


On September 23-25, the 2009 NCCSA Educators' Convention will be held in Myrtle Beach, SC, at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. The convention theme this year is "*Preparing Today for Tomorrow's Challenges*" based on *Deuteronomy 31:6*.

General Session Speakers this year include: **Dr. Ron Baity** — Pastor of Berean Baptist Church, **Dr. Jim Berg** — Dean of Students at Bob Jones University, and **Dr. Mike Norris** — Pastor of Franklin Road Baptist Church. Workshops are already being confirmed and scheduled. Again this year, we will be dismissing around 1:00 on Thursday to give everyone time to enjoy various activities. Please contact us if you have any questions. We are praying that the Lord will bless this convention and give sound academic instruction and encouragement to those who we feel are some of the greatest Christian servants on earth—our Christian school teachers.

## 2009 NCCSA Staff Development Seminar

*Mark your calendars for the week of July 27-30, 2009*



We are very excited and fortunate to announce that **Dr. Glen Schultz**, Headmaster of Sherwood Christian Academy in Albany, Georgia, will be the speaker for the NCCSA Staff Development Program this summer. Dr. Schultz has had a life-long passion for educating young people according to biblical standards. His message is that parents and Christian educators must link arms with the local church to provide a strong foundation for every boy and girl, based on a God-centered world view. Dr. Schultz has led seminars and training sessions on Christian education throughout the U.S., Canada, and several foreign countries. He has authored many articles and books, including, *The ABC's of Selecting a School for Your Child*, *A Parent's Greatest Joy*, and *Kingdom Education*.

His session this summer will deal with "Thinking Right...Teaching Right." It will cover the development of a Biblical worldview, importance of a Biblical philosophy of education, today's culture war, and many other topics.

We will be following the two-day, two-location format much like we did last year. **Monday-Tuesday/July 27-28 will be at Piedmont Baptist College for the Central/Western schools. Wednesday-Thursday/July 29-30 will be at Faith Christian Academy in Goldsboro.**

This is a great opportunity for our state and for our NCCSA Staff Development Seminar. We had the largest attendance ever last year, and we are hoping to double that this year. **Make plans NOW for your faculty to attend. Official NCCSA CEU credits will be available and will count toward the "official NCCSA CEU" credit that is needed for NCCSA Teacher Certification—2008 Edition v1.5.**

Registration information has been mailed out and is available on the NCCSA website. To download this year's 2009 NCCSA Staff Development Seminar registration information or flyer, please click [here](#).

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## AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference

### Washington, DC — July 14-18, 2009



We have received official confirmation from the AACS Washington office announcing the NCCSA scholarship winners for the AACS Youth Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, on July 14-18, 2009.

Congratulations to:

**Byron Aynes**, Greenville Christian Academy; **Zachary Judson**, Wilmington Christian Academy; **Summer Saunders**, Wilmington Christian Academy; **Matthew Long**, Wilmington Christian Academy; **First Alternate – Jacob Smith**, Trinity Christian School, Greenville

The Youth Legislative Training Conference is designed for AACS high school upperclassmen who are serious-minded about political involvement. It will inform the students about the political system, give them knowledge that has been tested by political experts, and challenge and inspire them about grassroots activism and getting involved in politics. Sightseeing trips have been planned to visit the area monuments and memorials in Washington D.C. Students will also visit the Capitol and various Congressional offices.

Many students have written our office and expressed that this conference was an "opportunity of a lifetime." The conference goal is to impress upon each student his/her need to be involved in the political process – whether by voting, praying, participating, or running for office.

If your school did not submit a student application for this year's conference, please plan to do so next year. Make every opportunity available to your students; you do not know just how they might be positively impacted for life.

# ATHLETIC NEWS

## Congratulations to the winners of NCCSA spring tournaments!

### STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT TEAM RESULTS

1<sup>st</sup> Place—Salem —321  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place—Alamance —329  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place—Vandalia —337  
 4<sup>th</sup> Place—Hickory —366  
 5<sup>th</sup> Place—Wake —380  
 Medalist—Josh Nichols, 69 —Salem  
 Runner-up—Josh Potter, 73—Bethel, Kinston

### NCCSA GOLF REGULAR SEASON RESULTS

District Regular Season Champions  
 EAST: Wilmington  
 CENTRAL: Alamance  
 TRIAD: Salem  
 WEST: Hickory

### SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

3A Champion—Wake  
 Runner-up—Wilson

2A Champion—Trinity, Greenville  
 Runner-up—Faith, Goldsboro  
 Consolation—Union Grove

### BASEBALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

3A Champion—Wake  
 Runner-up—Alamance  
 Consolation—Vandalia

2A Champion—Woodland  
 Runner-up—Oak Level  
 Consolation—Cornerstone

1A Champion—Fayetteville Street  
 Runner-up—Calvary, King  
 Consolation—Mt. Calvary, Hookerton

### GIRLS' SOCCER TOURNAMENT RESULTS

3A Champion—Wake  
 Runner-up—Wilson  
 Consolation—Vandalia

2A Champion—Cramerton  
 Runner-up—Hickory  
 Consolation—Berean

## **NCCSA "Elementary" Academic Testing for 2010**

Starting with next year's NCCSA Academic Testing competition, the NCCSA will be offering 3rd-4th grade tests in the areas of math, English, history, and science. For years, the elementary division of NCCSA Academic Testing tested 3rd-6th grade students with the same tests. Because of the difficulty 3rd-4th graders were having with these tests, we are developing 3rd-4th grade tests in these subjects. Test writers have been hired, and these tests will be ready for the 2010 NCCSA Academic Testing competition.

## **2009 NCCSA Student Leadership Conference**



The **2009 NCCSA Student Leadership Conference** will be October 7-8, 2009. Wednesday, October 7, will be at Faith Christian Academy in Goldsboro, and Thursday, October 8, will be at Piedmont Baptist College. The 2008 conference was attended by almost 500 students that gathered for intensive sessions on Biblical Leadership and what it means to be a true leader. Dr. Matt Williams and Keven Brownfield presented challenging information in an exciting way on a level the students could understand.

We are privileged that **Steve Roberson** is scheduled for the 2009 Conference. (Rand Hummel is scheduled for 2010.) Your students will not want to miss the way Brother Steve injects humor and practical application into his powerful principles and messages.

## NCCSA UPDATE

May-June

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**Joe Haas, Ed.D.—Executive Director**

**Jason Haas—Editor**

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[www.nccsa.org](http://www.nccsa.org)



## NCCSA Golf Competition

Randy Johnson has supervised NCCSA Golf Competition for many years. He has willingly given his time to help increase the level and organization of NCCSA Golf Competition each year. This is Randy's last year supervising NCCSA Golf, and we want to express our gratefulness for his willingness and time invested in supervising NCCSA Golf Competition.

Taking Randy's place as NCCSA Golf Coordinator will be Brian Trull from Wilson Christian Academy. We want to thank Brian for accepting this position and assisting the NCCSA with golf competition.

### **NCCSA Ranks 2nd in AACS National Fine Arts Competition**

The NCCSA is very proud of all the schools and students that attended April's 2009 AACS National Fine Arts Competition at Bob Jones University. Many of these students placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, and the NCCSA came in 2nd place in the "Cup of Excellence" race. The results of the competition can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

**NCCSA Re-enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year  
will be August 15-September 15**

## **Spotlight on Wilson Christian Academy**

Wilson Christian Academy began through the vision of Dr. Otis Holmes and Tabernacle Baptist Church in 1961. From a single K5 class at Tabernacle, WCA grew and moved to its current location four miles to the west for the 1970-71 year. The campus includes 57 acres in the prime growth area of Wilson. With 445 students and another 100+ in the daycare, the School Board believes God wants to enlarge the ministry and vision. In February, the construction of a fifth building began. This multi-purpose building will serve as a dramatic production center and double as a second PE/athletic practice floor. A full-service kitchen and cafeteria will add to WCA's ability to serve daily nutritious meals. In addition, there will be a band room, two fine arts offices, and restrooms. Completion is expected by August 1<sup>st</sup> – just in time for WCA's 49<sup>th</sup> year.

In the quest for excellence, WCA is striving to follow the Biblical pattern of faith and service. Using long and short-range planning strategies, WCA implemented a seven-fold goal in May 2007, and one of these goals included reviewing each aspect of the school curriculum. The Saxon math program is used for grades 4-12, and a writing

curriculum was added for 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Other curriculum additions include AP courses in Government, US History, and World History with greater college prep emphasis at the high school level.

WCA seeks to strive to meet the needs of Christian students with attention to special education. This policy was instituted during the 07-08 year and includes individualized study when dictated by schedule and need. Another one of the seven-fold goals was to expand the fine arts emphasis with upgraded music rooms and equipment. During the last couple of years, a modular building exclusively for band was added with the addition of new risers, two digital pianos, and tympani. Full drama productions were presented during the last three school years. Scholarships are provided for music and speech camp, and students participate in individual and group competition through NCCSA fine arts competition.

Wilson Christian Academy also wanted to increase community awareness by involving WCA students in service projects. Beginning the 2009 school year, the senior high Bible class will select a specific service project and work to minister in the community. Bible in

Action Class also ministers in local churches and chapel. WCA is striving to not only promote student spiritual growth on its campus but hopes to instill a "faith in action" spirit, not only for the benefit of its students, but also for the growing community.

As another goal, WCA faculty and staff are evaluating the entire program through accreditation by the NCCSA and also the American Association of Christian Schools. The comprehensive "scope and sequence" phase was completed in December 2008, and other accreditation requirements are in progress. Even though WCA is already respected in the community as an excellent academic Christian institution, the school has benefited through the accreditation process, and hopes to have an even greater impact on the community with full accreditation status.

WCA is excited about beginning its 49<sup>th</sup> school year in August with the completion of the new multi-purpose building. They feel that God has helped them achieve progress in their seven-fold goals and continue to strive in their pursuit of excellence for His glory.