

COVER-UPS

I don't know of anyone who likes a cover-up. Yet, we do it all the time. Just the other day I had a few minutes to spare and laid some shelf paper in our kitchen. People's tastes differ with the individual and so we decided to change the looks of things just a bit. Some of the shelves didn't have any paper at all; others had another style that we did not particularly care for. As I labored with the measuring stick, scissors, pencil and paper I realized that all I was doing was covering up the shelves so that they would look a little nicer.

Just because I was putting some multicolored paper with a uniform design on kitchen shelves would not make those shelves hold the dishes any better, it would not add strength to the shelves themselves, and it took my time and energy to create this cover-up!

True, the shelves are much prettier to look at now that we have given them a facelift but as I stop and reflect, I now realize that shelf paper is nice to have but not truly necessary. What I did was cover-up that which I thought was unattractive with something else I thought was pretty.

Women have been guilty of "the big cover-up" for centuries. Make-up is as old as the Egyptians and perhaps older. Women have used different kinds of substances on their faces to cover up unwanted wrinkles, lines, and other kinds of facial blemishes to make themselves more attractive. But women aren't to blame because men enjoy them doing this. Unfortunately, during the "dating years" the young women cover-up so the men will show up!

And that brings us to the point of this article. No matter how much we may try to cover up our lives and attempt to hide our faults, the real self will still come out. We cannot consistently be someone we aren't. And we must realize that a cover-up will not change the real you; we must become different on the inside to be a changed person.

God is not mocked, and we know that He looks not as man sees (the outer appearance), but on the heart (1Sam. 16:7). When we truly want others to see us as we really are, we need not worry because a little make-up or a new suit will not hide us from revealing our true personality. The "real you" is much more than outward appearance and the adornment of clothing. The "real you," is your attitude, conscience, degree of spiritual faithfulness, and personality make-up.

Upon first acquaintances one may first see what we have done with our lives to be able to put the best foot forward. But it won't be long until the glitter and shine of our outward man is no longer affective in concealing the inner man which is the real you.

The best way, to solve the problem is to be yourself. Don't rely on artificial cover-ups to help accentuate your good points and hide your bad ones. Your good points will come through no matter what, and with a Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA) you can work on the bad points and not be ashamed to be yourself.

I will continue to lay shelf paper to cosmetically improve the looks of our kitchen, but I realize the true worth of the shelves will be in their built-in strength not their outward appearance. Likewise, let us live so that our worth and beauty comes from a pure and holy life, and not from an artificial cover-up.