

A CHURCH WHERE NOBODY GOES	UNFOLDING THE ROSE
	It is only a tiny rosebud, A flower of God's design; But I cannot unfold the petals
I love to travel the back roads And see the country sights,	With these clumsy hands of mine. The secret of unfolding flowers which
To see the houses, barns and farms, And scenery beyond delight.	Is not known to such as I. GOD opens this flower so sweetly,
But often my heart is saddened When I see the neglect and wear, Of what used to be great buildings, Houses and barns beyond repair.	When in my hands they die. If I cannot unfold a rosebud, This flower of God's design, Then how can I have the wisdom To unfold this life of mine?
Another thing that grieves me deeply, Perhaps more than any other sight, Is to see an old church building, Neglected and dark as night.	So I'll trust in Him for leading Each moment of my day. I will look to him for His guidance Each step of the pilgrim way.
Shingles all broken and missing, Window panes all shattered and gone, Never does a place seem so lonely, With the joy and beauty all gone.	The pathway that lies before me, Only my Heavenly Father knows. I'll trust Him to unfold the moments, Just as He unfolds the rose.
No doubt there must have been a time. This church was loved and blessed, Where friends and neighbors gathered For fellowship, worship and rest.	We recommend that you drive your car with such care that your driver's license has a good chance to expire before you do.
The Word was preached with fervor, The joy of God was known; Love for neighbors and others Was always clearly shown. But that has all changed now;	There Are No Necessary Evils! Once we assuage our conscience by calling something a "necessary evil," it begins to look more and more necessary and less and less evil.
No one seems to care.	The Meaning of Psalms 23
We wonder what must have happened, To cause this neglect and shame; Whatever it was or happened to be, It's people who are to blame.	 <u>Relationship</u> - The Lord is my Shepherd. <u>Supply</u> - I shall not want. <u>Rest</u> - He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. <u>Refreshment</u> - He leadeth me beside the still vaters. Healing - He restoreth my soul.
To live in this land of freedom And enjoy blessings He bestows, What a sad sight it is to see,	 <u>Guidance</u> - He leadeth me in the paths of right- eousness. <u>Purpose</u> - For His name's sake. <u>Testing</u> - Yea, though I walk through the valley
A church where nobody goes.	of the shadow of death. 9. Protection - I will fear no evil.
Sad to say, but still today, Many neglect church and duty,	10. Faithfulness - For Thou art with me. 11. Discipline - Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
One day, perhaps not far away, They'll destroy their church's beauty.	12. <u>Hope</u> - Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.
Do not neglect the House of God, But always be in your place; Do not make it a place of shame,	 <u>Consecration</u> - Thou anointest my head with oil. <u>Abundance</u> - My cup runneth over. <u>Blessing</u> - Surely goodness and mercy shall follow ne all the days of my life. <u>Security</u> - And I will dwell in the house of the
But one of beauty and grace. -Leonard R. Dice	17. Eternity - Forever!



WHAT KIND OF CLOTHES SHOULD & CHRISTIAN WEAR?

Proverbs 7:10 - And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of a harlot, and subtil of heart.

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

The two verses above picture two women diametrically opposite in their dress. One is a seductress who has chosen to dress in a way that will promote unboliness and fornication. The other is attired in modest apparel that promotes modesty, holiness, chastity and beauty. The dress of a good spiritual lady is never questionable. Consider these questions about dress:

- 1. <u>The Spiritual Question</u>: Is my clothing Biblically modest?
- The Moral Question: Is my clothing distinctly masculine or distinctly feminine?
- 3. The Attitudinal Question: Is my clothing a testimony for or against Jesus Christ and the Bible?
- 4. The Functional Question: . Is my clothing appropriate?
- 5. The Cultural Question: Is my clothing Godly or worldly and sensual?

If you have a sincere love for your Lord and Saviour, He will put the right kind of pride in your heart, and it will be easy to dress to please Him!

ELEVEN GENDER-SPECIFIC REFERENCES FOR MEN

According to the Bible, women are not authorized to be pastors. Let the Scriptures speak for themselves. (Read I Timothy 3:1-7). The "bishop" is the same office and the same person otherwise described as "elder" or "pastor." Looking closely at the passage makes it quite clear that pastoral leadership was intended for the male gender. It says:

"If a man desire the office ... he desireth a good work."

"... the husband of one wife ... "

"... his own house; having his children in subjection."

"For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church ... "

"Not a novice, lest ... he fall ... "

"Moreover, he must have a good report...lest he fall in reproach..."

Note, there are 11 gender-specific references in these sevenverses. The meaning of what the Scripture says here seems to be very clear. Women are not called to be pastors or preachers.