

GRAY HAIR

Joe Slater

I was in my mid-twenties when I noticed my first gray hair. I promptly plucked it out. (Ouch!) Problem solved . . . except it wasn't. More and more gray ones invaded my coal-black locks; pulling them became an exercise in futility. My children suggested Grecian Formula. I told them, "No, I earned every one of these!"

My vanity has long since subsided. What hair I have left is nearly all gray (or is it silver? white?)

Solomon wrote, "*The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is their gray head*" (Proverbs 20:29). All kidding aside, gray hair is nothing of which to be ashamed. Generally it indicates age, and we hope that with age comes some wisdom. I've seen a few gray heads that really were splendid, though I think I wouldn't count my own among them!

Under the Law of Moses, God commanded: "*You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the Lord*" (Leviticus 19:32). Your parents probably taught you, as did mine, "Respect your elders." I commend our young folks here for the fine way they treat older people with courtesy and respect. It speaks well for them and for their parents.

Again it was Solomon who wrote, "*The silver-haired head is a crown of glory if it is found in the way of righteousness*" (Proverbs 16:31). Age doesn't guarantee good behavior. We who have attained senior citizen status owe it to the young to conduct ourselves with integrity. It's easy to respect someone if they are acting respectably!

If you don't have gray hair yet, just wait – you will! Be sure you are found in the way of righteousness.

A Writer Writes

A young man made an appointment to meet with a well-known published writer. The first question the writer had for the young man was, "Why did you want to see me?" The young man replied, "Well, I am a writer, too. I was hoping you could share with me the secrets for success."

The author asked a second question: "Well, what have you written?" "Nothing, at least nothing that I have finished," the young man replied.

"If you have not finished anything yet, at least tell me what you have been working on," said the author. The young man answered, "Well, I am in school, so right now I am not writing anything." The author asked one final question: "So why do you call yourself a writer?"

A writer writes. A painter paints. A cook cooks. A teacher teaches. You can't honestly call yourself something unless you are doing the work.

The same thing is true for people calling themselves Christians. You shouldn't call yourself a follower of Christ unless you are following Christ!

When it comes to Christianity, there are too many people sitting on the sidelines doing nothing, though claiming to be playing the game. Innumerable people claim to be Christians, but when it comes down to it, what have they done to follow Christ? How has their life changed? What are they doing in service to Him? Jesus said in Mark 8:34, "*Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*"

Being a Christian is not a spectator sport. So let us not merely claim to be followers of Christ – let us show whose we are by the way we live.

--Luke Bower (Abilene, TX) via *Old Paths*

The Priest I Need

I pray to God that I may find
A priest to make me whole,
A priest who has a sacrifice
That can redeem my soul.

My soul is lost through my own sin,
Not any other's fault.
Only what I myself have done
Puts me in Satan's vault.

God has the key. He can unlock
And free me from that cell
Where I am Satan's prisoner
And rescue me from hell.

Christ Jesus in the Priest I need.
My God sent him for me.
His sacrifice, made on the cross,
Can set all sinners free.

Not only I, but you, my friend,
Can from the holding pen
Of sin and death and hell escape
To God's eternal heav'n.

And so I ask you to believe
As I believe. Obey
The Son of God who offers life
And follow Him today.

--Gerald Cowan (via *Bulletin Gold*)