

Everybody loves a parade, but a parade and a demonstration are not the same. Before writing one more comment, I want to make it very clear that I abhor abuse of any kind and especially that kind that involves women. The three beautiful women in my house deserve all the respect I and every other man can give them. I will defend them, their honor, and their security to my last breath. I hope I would do the same for any woman be she a believer or not. Having said that, I have some thoughts on the [Slutwalk](#) held in Minneapolis last Saturday.

Never heard of Slutwalk? Good. If the name shocks you, it is by design of the promoters. The name of the event garnered their 15 minutes of fame in print, and on the air in both radio and TV. A bit of history, the Slutwalk is an import of an event held in Toronto that emphasizes *the motto: It's not "don't get raped", it's "don't rape."* The march started in response to a Toronto police officer's comment to a self-defense class. The general tenor of his comments communicated ideas to women about avoiding attacks and not being a victim. In his lecture he said, "Women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized." Some heard that comment and concluded that women are at fault if they get abused. NO THEY ARE NOT! Tamar was not at fault when Amnonlom abused her (2 Samuel 13) nor was any woman in the past at fault when victimized by another. The sinner is the perpetrator not the victim. The victim should be loved, comforted, and accepted by everyone close to her.

I can agree with one point the promoters of the Slutwalk protest make – the motto above; I agree with it wholeheartedly. I stand, however, in opposition to very many of their points in their mission statement. Beyond that, I stand in opposition to the ideas that what I say, do, wear for clothing or do not wear for clothing have no bearing on another person. That thought does not fly logically or biblically.

Earlier this summer, one of the local TV stations had a report on home burglaries. In on-air interviews police officers encouraged homeowners not to leave their ground level windows and sliding doors open at night because burglars were coming to homes where people were simply trying to enjoy a cool summer's breeze on a beautiful Minnesota evening. "Close your windows so burglars cannot easily enter your home while you sleep," the officers urged. The next part of the report had different police officers cautioning homeowners not to leave their garage doors open at any time, period. "If you are mowing in the backyard," they said, "close the garage door after taking your mower out." Like the windows and screen doors, thieves were taking advantage of the opportunity. Logically, the police were simply saying do your part to protect yourself. When traveling in a big city, travelers are cautioned about pickpockets, thieves, conmen, and the like. Don't carry large amounts of cash. Don't use a purse with a large shoulder strap. These are measures taken as precautions against bad people. Thieves, burglars, and abusers are bad people. Take every precaution against them. It makes logical sense. Should I be able to leave my windows open at night if I want to? Of course. Should I be able to leave my car running in the driveway during a Minnesota cold freeze? Yes, but living in a sinful world doesn't always make that possible.

How a woman (or a man for that matter) dresses is guided by the Scripture in many areas but notably in this discussion by 1 Thessalonians 4:6. There Paul instructed "that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter." The chapter context is about sexuality, and Paul's point is that every believer has a responsibility toward other believers so that one believer's conduct does not contribute to another believer's sin. He does not excuse the believer's sin. He teaches believers that our choices do not begin and end with us as if they are not impacting on other people, or as some like to say, "If you have a problem with it, too bad. I don't." For a Christian modesty is not simply about how much skin one shows. Christian modesty is an expression of love that says, "I love you too much to put you in a position of temptation; therefore, I choose to tone it down to be a help to you."

In a radio interview on WCCO AM 830, the radio host challenged the organizer about her rationale that how a women dresses has no bearing on other people. Her response conveyed that how a woman dresses is her own business and hers alone. She said our thinking is "Look, but don't touch." That's good for one party – the potential victim. However, it's not good for the other party – the potential sinner.

Let me say again, "I AM NOT DEFENDING AN ASSAILANT IN ANY WAY." The perpetrator is always wrong. I am saying, let's think biblically about issues, including how my choices impact the lives of other people.

This may generate a few comments. I'll be interested reading them.