

## My Journey Into Naturism

I like stories, but someone has to write them or we will run out of new stories to read. I lost interest in fiction stories because I learned that the author decides how the hero gets into and out of everything in the story. So, I've decided I like real life stories...and now I want to tell you my story. This is about my introduction to naturism and some major events that have happened since then along the way. This is a true account of my journey as best as I can recount it, it is not made up.

A little background...I have made and broken many resolutions to read through the Bible and after many of those resolutions had not even gotten out of the books that Moses had written. Then one year our church decided to have a contest in Sunday School challenging everyone to read through the Bible in a year. It was the men's class against the women's class so...of course, I had to do my part to make sure the men won. In my reading I included the annotations in the Rice Bible, the Scofield Bible, the Reese Chronological Bible and others. After the contest was over I changed to reading a chapter of the Bible and Mathew Henry's commentary on that chapter. I gave myself frequent pats on the back for how faithful I was to my reading schedule. Somewhere along the way during my studies I ended up doing a short search on how God feels about clothing. The easy answer after a not so deep study was that after Adam sinned and The Fall, God replaced the fig leafs with coats so obviously God's view was pro clothing. I liked clothing. I didn't even own a pair of shorts at that time. I even wore a T-shirt when swimming to "prevent" sunburn. Life was good, God agreed with me and on with life we went.

While I was doing some construction work with my friend Jim down in Texas...I think building kitchen cabinets, he ask me what I thought about naturism. I think I answered him with everything I knew on the subject by asking him "What is naturism?" He explained briefly and cited Isaiah 20 about the

prophet going naked for over three years. I remembered reading that in the past and thinking that is strange, but I had never given it even a moment's second thought. I also remember thinking that if I did not need to get this reading done for the contest, it would be interesting to study more and see just how naked he was. I had the same thought about King Saul and the prophets and Peter, etc. The reading contest is not all bad, if that is what you are thinking. It got me to read through the whole Bible many times which did not happen without the reading contest. But, it should not be the taskmaster, the Holy Spirit should take the lead. And He was whispering that I needed more study time.

When I got back to Pennsylvania after the construction work was finished, I went to the internet for another opinion or at least more information on my discussions with Jim on the subject of naturism. What he said had made sense, but I wanted more detail. I read "My Chains are Gone" which addressed a problem I was having at the time with viewing porn. I read most of the posts on "The Biblical Naturist" website. I learned to use the Strong's Concordance on the "Blue Letter Bible" website. It is much easier than the large book and paging through the Bible to find the verse. I think I even read a book or two on naturism at this time, I think Aaron Frost's book at least.

Jim had also written a booklet about the Bible and nakedness which he asked me to read before he made copies of it. After reading it I found that he had missed a few of the occurrences of public nudity in the Bible and I sent them to him and subsequently he incorporated them into the booklet. As I continued my study I would find additional examples of nakedness in my Bible reading so I would email them to him and even though there was a nice list when we started the discussion...as time went on, there ended up being quite a large number of them.

A little while later I took a trip to visit my daughter in New Mexico and went with her and her family to their church. During the sermon, the pastor said something that I would not have even noticed before, but now...after reading Jim's booklet and after my additional study on the subject just didn't seem right...in fact, I knew it to be wrong according to what I had read in the Bible. I didn't have the courage to hand him the booklet in person, so I waited until I got home and sent it to him in the mail. Months went by and I assumed that he just threw it away and was not going to answer me, but I was wrong. Apparently he needed that much time to "pray" about how to answer me. His response was pathetic to say the least. It was obvious that he had not studied the Bible on the subject. It was obvious he hadn't even read through the booklet. His response was at least half emotion and the other half not responding to the actual questions, but rather to straw men that he had constructed himself. I had asked for Bible reasons why the booklet was wrong if he felt that it was. His response was full of misused or at the least misunderstood verses. To say I was disappointed with his response would be an understatement. So, I sent Jim a copy of the Pastor's letter and asked if I should answer it. He said NO, that it would be casting pearls before swine as it was obvious he wasn't interested in the Truth of the subject only the religious dogma. I expressed my disappointment and told him it was a shame to waste all the good arguments I had at the ready to answer him. Jim's suggestion was for me to write an answer to the Pastor, but rather than send it to him...send it to Jim which I did.

By then Jim had taken the information in his booklet and put it online as the NakedandUnashamed.org website. I must have impressed him with my response to the Pastor as he asked me to write other articles for the website. My first thought was..."You expect a retired physics teacher to write articles when I am sure my C in college English was a gift." The still small voice however, said "At least try", so I wrote an article and sent it to Jim and he made something worth reading out of it. And that continued for nearly two years...I'd

send an article to Jim and he fine tune it. As time went on, he needed to do less fine tuning to make it acceptable.

I think at this point in the story it is important to also deal with some of the consequences of taking a biblical view on the subject of naturism. Taking the Bible at face value and having a biblical world view on this very sensitive subject can and most likely will cost you something as it removes power from the religious “leaders” (Pharisees and legalists) and places that power back in the hands of the Holy Spirit where it belongs.

So, with that in mind...a little background...Jim had moved from Pennsylvania and the church he was pastoring there to plant a new church in Texas. After five years, the church in Texas had grown to around forty people. About twenty five in attendance from Texas that Jim had either won to Christ or had invited to church and about fifteen who had moved down from Pennsylvania over those five years to be in Texas with him. The pastor that Jim had been mentoring at the new church plant and that Jim was hoping would lead that new church long term was not attracting new people to himself like he should, was not going out and visiting new people like he should and was simply being a little lazy, so Jim decided it was time for him to go back to being lead pastor himself and the man that he was training needed to move back into the assistant pastor position until such time as he got back on track. Instead of admitting he needed more training before being the head of the church, the new pastor decided to play Judas and to try to destroy Jim. You see, Jim had shared with him the booklet also and so, when he started his mutiny against Jim’s leadership in the church he had naturism as his main weapon to use against him. And of course, with naturism comes the hint of sexual impropriety. In the textile mind nudity is always sexual, since the only time they are naked is for sex. With that as background we will get back to my story.

My son was one of the folks who had moved to Texas from Pennsylvania to be with Jim and to be a part of the new

church plant in Texas and he was the one who "filled me in" on what was going on in Texas before I heard the story from the pastor that Jim had left pastoring the church in Pennsylvania had announced it from the pulpit. This is not his real name, but I will call him Ananus, not because he was old, but he is a good example in the Bible of a Pharisee. After Ananus was finished with his proclamation I felt much better about Jim's role. His reaction was how most textile religious "leaders" react to naturism with a little sexual flavoring to try make it more damaging. What we didn't know at the time, but found out later was that the pastor mentee in Texas had been calling the pastor mentee in Pennsylvania undermining Jim's leadership and setting him up at odds with Jim for months. Anyway, after the pulpit announcement from Ananus, my immediate reaction was to call Jim to get his side of the story, which only confirmed to me that I understood exactly what was going on. Jim will tell you that to this day, I am the only one who ever made the phone call to ask for his side of the story. Ninety nine percent of the church in Pennsylvania were made up of people he had won to the Lord himself, or performed marriage ceremonies for, had baptized, had prayed for and visited when they were sick, had done funerals for, etc. They were his friends and his family and no one else even checked to see if the lies were true. Ananus was not sure that everyone got the full message from his announcement, so he went house to house to visit folks just make sure they got the message. That's how it came to be that he came to see me.

It was an interesting meeting. I knew what they (Ananus brought a deacon along for support) were visiting about and so I helped them get started by suggesting they were there to tell me how wicked Jim was. I had written enough articles and had done enough Bible study on the subject to be ready for them. They had one story that put Jim in a bad light when you didn't have all the facts...in hindsight, I should have called Jim about it while they were there and asked for his version of the story. I believe they may have found a reason to leave very quickly at that point, but I didn't think of that until later. Most of their meeting with me centered on naturism and Jim's

ungodly, evil and wicked view that God's most beautiful creation needed to be shamefully hidden away from view. My wife did not say much during the whole meeting except at the end she said, "I did not know it was this bad." I knew she was strongly opposed to naturism, but she could have kept her reaction to herself out of respect for her husband. Because I knew my Bible, I didn't cave in to their stand on the naked body and because I wouldn't be bullied, I ended up being banned from church services at the end of the meeting and for about a month after that. That bothered me, but I was not going to lie about what I believed just so I could be a part of the church. I will sometimes keep my beliefs to myself if I feel that is necessary unless I am asked what I believe, but I didn't feel right going along to get along when I knew what was really going on. Ananus and I continued exchanging emails on verses that he found or when someone suggested something that might convince me I was wrong. I would give him an alternative answer or I would show him where he missed the point of the verse.

Judas down in Texas resigned his position as pastor after he pulled his mutiny, so the church died a very sudden death. He had gotten what he had wanted...the pre-eminence, but despite being completely in charge now, he resigned and moved back to Pennsylvania completely leaving the ministry. My son who attended the church before it died was blindly supporting Judas and the facts didn't matter. Jim had performed his marriage ceremony to his second wife in the middle of the summer before this in a small service to prevent them from fornicating. They wanted to have a reception in early March of 2018, right after Judas had made his move. I was invited to come down and stay at his place for the event with a strict set of rules about nakedness, which I did not think were necessary. I was even "allowed" to go see Jim while I was there which I knew would get me closer to the bottom of his favorite people list probably just above Jim. I decided that it wasn't worth it and just stayed home. He eventually worked out a deal to fly his Mother down for the reception. The next year in May I went down to help Jim for a month on another

construction project which my wife would have no part of so I went alone. Before I drove down I offered to bring my son some white pine lumber which he was using to make kitchen cabinets. He said it would be best if we did not see each other, so I was about half an hour drive from him and we did not see each other for the whole month I was there. I had a great time that month working with Jim on restoring a house. My son and his wife still have ways to say they are not happy with me over four years later even though they act like they are really concerned about my welfare.

My other son who still lives in Pennsylvania and who attended the same church I got kicked out of, would not talk to me for over a year. I don't know if that was his reaction or if Ananus talked him into it. Jim's father finally had a talk with him and straightened him out a little on family and how we are supposed to treat each other and we are now on good terms, if not great terms.

Ananus and the deacon came back to my house for another meeting to give me "conditions" for coming back to church. They claimed they had a deacon meeting about the situation and decided to let me come back, but with a gag order. I went back, but if I had it to do over again, I would not. Everyone was a spy to see if I was following my gag order. In my eyes, the sermons seemed aimed at correcting me...eventually I stopped going to church. I looked for another church to attend which I found and asked to meet with the pastor my first visit. He was "too busy" for about a month just to see if the problem would go away without him getting involved. We finally had a chance to meet and so, I started our discussion with Isaiah 20 just to see if I would be thrown out again. He seemed to be about as unaware of naturism as I was when Jim asked me about it. I was allowed to worship with them, but since I was a member of a similar church I would need to attend for a year before they would allow me to join.

While I was working in Texas with Jim, Ananus resigned as pastor in Pennsylvania leaving both of Jim's accusers out of

their pastoral ministries and Jim still serving the Lord. Jim's Dad, who had founded the church in Pennsylvania came up and helped get the church organized to look for a new pastor and function without one in the meantime. He suggested I return to attending again, which I did. He felt that the church needed my wisdom and perspective on the Bible, but the deacons instead renewed my gag order. This was no surprise really and I did not try to help them understand my position on the subject. They had plenty of time to search the Bible or the internet if they wanted the Truth.

The church eventually got a pastor in his mid 20's. He sounded good as a candidate, but Sunday after Sunday he started to sound unprepared. Jim had sent me a digital copy of "The Naked Gospel" by Andrew Farley. It is not hard to find his sermons on line from either the title of the book or his name. I listened to his sermons every time I was free of other duties. Now I had a big contrast between an unprepared novice and someone who had something to say and knew how to present it in a very understandable way. Farley did a series of sermons on the "sermon on the mount" and the new pastor did one on the same section. I use an iPad as a large print Bible which was connected to the church WiFi so I switched to Mathew Henry instead of listening to the novice. Another church member I was sharing books with and had highly recommended "The Naked Gospel" too, asked if I heard the Farley sermon. We decided to hold a Bible study on Saturday mornings. My wife read my emails on this plan and notified the novice and she of course included naturism.

I referred the novice to [NakedandUnasshamed.org](http://NakedandUnasshamed.org) for my position on naturism. He claimed he read the articles, but his response told a much different story. His response was very much like the first pastor I mentioned in NM which was at that time the second or third article on the articles page. Is it possible that they are both guided by the same spirit? Surely if he had read that article he would have used different arguments with me. He also wanted to "approve" or "disapprove" what we were studying on our own private

Saturday morning Bible studies. Rather than coming to learn firsthand what we might be doing, he wanted us including non-members of his church to submit our study for his blessing. My response should have gotten me kicked out again, but I think my wife got to the email from the novice first and deleted it. I just stopped going to church anywhere except to listen to Farley sermons. I have taken to calling him the Pope due to his over-reaching authoritarian actions.

In the end, I have learned a lot from all of this that I can see no way to learn any other way. Many things that I thought of as absolute truth and was taught from the pulpit are actually not supported by the Bible. The first would be that nakedness is not a sin when done in the right manner, but the truth is that I learned that before the church in Texas imploded. I also learned that when religious people meet a truth that does not agree with their religion they leave love, patience, tolerance and most other Christians virtues behind them and attack you. There is typically no way to see that if you believe as they do. No matter how much you think people should be obligated to you, they can act like they have no obligation at the slightest reason. This is probably part of the religious reaction. It is painfully clear how Satan can use “good Christians” to do his work against God. It is clear enough in the Bible starting with Eve, but until you find one of Satan's deceits and are punished by Christians, you will not see it as clearly. I also discovered God gives you the strength to do hard things when you decide to follow Him...that also is not learned until it happens...like writing articles or not arguing with people who do not want to change.

Satan is very affective at getting the religious to become promoters of his views.

He has convinced the church to take what God called “very good” and promote the idea that it is somehow dirty and shameful and in need of covering.

He has convinced the religious to promote works and Phariseeism and legalism while God promotes Grace.

Isaiah 5:20

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;

So, what do you do about all this...I know what I chose to do:

Joshua 24:15

...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.