

## **Just Because You Can Do Something Doesn't Mean You Should**

We've all heard this statement before...typically used by a legalist telling us to stop doing something that we want to do.

But does it apply to naturism? We have heard several different preachers from several different parts of the country and in differing denominations tell us that very thing. In every case, all of them started out by telling us that naturism was sinful and ungodly. When confronted with the Bible on the subject they all begrudgingly agreed they had no leg to stand on. At the end of the discussion they all decided on the idea that we needed to avoid the appearance of evil (and evil is whatever they determined it to be). Then...to a person and without talking to each other...they all ended on "just because you can do something doesn't mean that you should.

So, we decided to ask ourselves the question..."should we be naturists"...

We know that we can be naturists based on the many examples of the commonplace of nudity in the scriptures and some at the very command of God or the leading of the Holy Spirit, but are the legalists right...just because we can do something does that mean we should?

We know based on the many verses in scripture that there is no absolute prohibition to alcoholic beverage, but we also know that based on the many warnings in scripture about the abuse of alcohol and the many examples in our society of the damage that alcohol does to families and homes and lives that even though alcohol is something we can do, it is probably something that most of us should not do. I know that every case is different and we are not trying to make absolute statements ourselves that are not based in scripture, but this is one of those things that probably should ask the question...is this something that I should do even though I know I can do.

So, what about naturism? Does naturism fit into the same category? Is naturism one of those things that we have been able to see is ok with the Bible, but based on social acceptability that we should avoid anyway?

I think the only way to determine this is to look to the Bible...

1. Are there any warnings about non-sexual nudity in the Bible as there are about alcohol? No
2. Does God ever tell us that non-sexual nudity is unwise or foolish like it does about alcohol? No
3. Whose image were humans created in? God's
4. Who told us that the naked and unashamed bodies of Adam and Eve were "very good"? God
5. Did God intend for all of us to live naked and unashamed? Yes, the command to fill the earth was before the curse so God intended for the earth to be filled with naked and unashamed people made in His very image...an image that He obviously wanted on display as the pinnacle of His creation.
6. Does God ever tell us that He changed His mind about how we were to live? No
7. Did God command his priests and prophets to be naked in the public view? Yes
8. Did the Holy Spirit lead His king to be naked in the public view? Yes
9. Were any of His apostles naked in the public view? Yes

We could go on, but I think you get the point...we have many verses in the Bible to point us to the decision that God is very much for His image being on display in the public's view.

So, where did the idea ever come from that nudity was wrong? Well, let's look at how Satan feels about God and the bearers of His image.

1. Does Satan hate God? Yes
2. Does Satan hate the bearers of God's image? Yes

3. Is it possible that Satan is so good at deceit that he has convinced the very people who ought to be promoting the image and likeness of God to promote the opposite? Yes, he is that good at deceit!
4. Is it possible that Satan is so good at deceit that he has convinced the very people who ought to be promoting living as God intended from the beginning to promote the opposite? Yes it is possible!

**Matthew 24:24** For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

We could also mention all of the wonderful benefits that living as God intended brings in to our lives. Benefits such as breaking the chains of porn addiction through a renewed mind and view of the body. Benefits such as an improved self-image now that we are seeing ourselves as God sees us...as fearfully and wonderfully made instead of as Satan wants us to see ourselves...as ugly and shameful and dirty. Benefits such as improved health from the skin being able to breath and the lymph system being able to drain and the increased production of vitamin D.

So, back to our question...Is naturism one of those things that we have been able to see is ok with the Bible, but based on social acceptability that we should avoid anyway?

If God is the one who decided we should live naked and not ashamed and hasn't changed His mind on it, then we decided that we should follow His way instead of falling for Satan's lies and deceit.

We believe that naturism is not one of those things that we can do, but shouldn't.

We believe that naturism is one of those things we can do and should do.

We believe that living God's way is the right way!