

10.26.20 - Ignorance

We are going to expound on a quote from Aaron Frost in his book Christian Body Modesty and the Bible: *Sadly, the most ignorant people are the most self-assured and resolute in their baseless conclusions.* Most of us have had to deal with this problem in our lives in some area, like work, church or just conversing with someone. It seems to be most obvious in connection with non-sexual nakedness. I would never do that! I can not believe God wants us to be naked in the company of members of the opposite sex! I don't care what the Bible says, I know how I feel, or I know better. (the I-know-better is usually shown by actions but not stated)

Ignorance is not something that you will easily recognize in yourself...it's like the old saying you don't know what you don't know. Most people in bad health are ignorant of the ways to improve their health, for example lose weight, exercise, eat healthy foods, take good vitamins, etc. Most people with bad finances are ignorant of the ways to improve their finances, for example to not get into debt, to pay off debt, invest in the market, invest in real estate, read books like Rich Dad, Poor Dad, etc. Most people with marriage problems are ignorant of the ways to improve their marriages, for example attend Christian marriage seminars, watch marriage improvement videos such as Love & Respect, Love is a Decision, read marriage books, continue dating after you're married, etc. You see, ignorance is much easier to see in others than it is to recognize in one's self. A person must study to learn that he is ignorant due to the tendency to think that others are always wrong, and that we are always right. Study is work and we tend to avoid that as much as possible. If we can see no benefit from study, then there are a thousand better things to do with our time. If we study to prove that we are right, we may not discover that we are wrong because we only seek or believe the information that agrees with our position. However, even without study most people will have an opinion on any topic chosen. There are even a few in our life out there just like a colleague in my past...anyone who gave a strong opinion would find him opposing their position just for his own entertainment. If the person did not know what he was doing, they could demonstrate the quote above for everyone listening and provide him with a lot of amusement.

If we are ignorant, without study we assume we are right by default. The very evidence of this fact is found in how we became naturists to begin with. My wife and I were visiting at a friend's house and toward the end of the evening our friends, knowing that I was a pastor asked us to help talk a relative and their family out of being nudists. We quickly agreed to talk them out of this "evil lifestyle"

but, asked for a week to complete a thorough study of the scriptures so that I had enough ammunition for the intervention. Think about that for a moment, as a pastor, I had agreed to have an intervention for someone to rescue them from an “evil lifestyle” and I had no idea what the scriptures said. That is the textbook definition of the word ignorance. After a week’s worth of studying the scriptures we had learned that the Bible and therefore God, had a lot of positive to say about non-sexual social nudity...what we now refer to as naturism. We could find nothing in scripture in context to prove that He had ever changed His mind that He found our naked and not ashamed condition to be anything other than “very good.” We had not found a single verse in context and with the proper definitions to even hint that God wanted His image in us covered. We found quite the opposite in fact, we found that Satan is the one promoting covering God’s image and that the commonplace of nonsexual nudity would contribute to the cure of most of today’s over sexualized society. That naturism was part of the cure for the objectification of women, that it was part of the cure for porn, that it was part of the cure for sexual infidelity because the naked body was no longer representative of sexual opportunity. You see, until we experience being wrong a few times we hold to our ignorant opinion very strongly...until we studied the scriptures for ourselves regarding nudity, we had no idea that we were ignorant on it. Notice that our ignorance did not stop us from having an incorrect opinion on the subject. **Pro 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.** needs experience before it can be understood and applied. If leaning on our own understanding was not natural, the verse would be wasted on us. It is the last part of the verse that concerns us here and we believe that it applies to interpersonal interactions as well as relating with God. To illustrate: I was rooming with an older couple and the conversation went to child rearing. I gave my opinion on the topic and my landlady replied that the only experts on child rearing are people who have no children. Since I had no experience with children of my own at the time, I offered no more opinions. Now that I am experienced, I understand why she made that statement. What works on one child usually does not work on the siblings. What works at one age does not work a few months later.

God is always right which makes holding an opinion contrary to God the highest form of ignorance! Yes, we know people who believe God is opposed to all nakedness even when confronted with all the evidence in the Bible indicating He approves of and even encourages non-sexual nakedness. Of course, none of us have any areas where we hold beliefs in contrast to God’s Word (sarcasm intended lol). Aaron’s quote came after he spent time correctly disputing the verses that are incorrectly used to teach that God wanted us clothed as much as possible and as

long as possible. The quote is also an indicator that he has had some experience dealing with people who will not see the obvious. It is sometimes difficult to have an honest and open discussion with people who allow their opinions to overrule the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. It proves the statement that my father has said so many times, "the mind convinced against it's will is of the same opinion still."

We believe that the self-assured part is the default position also. "I am the smartest person I know so I have to be right." There is a little pride mixed in with that. Okay, okay, there is a lot of pride mixed in with that. It is still an immature mindset. Here is a passage that shows that after we are born again, there is a progression to reach maturity. **2 Peter 1:5-7 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.** Self-assured and proud are not very charitable or loveable. They are much closer to the beginning of the maturation process, Charity in this passage is the Greek word agape which is defined as God's kind of love.

Resolute for me goes with the definition of a strong-willed person; if you agree with the person then we refer to him as resolute, if not then the person is stubborn. Aaron probably considered using the word "stubborn" but, he let it pass in favor of the nicer word. We believe that Satan and our own pride helps with this resolution by blinding us to the possibility that we could be wrong. There seems to be no other explanation for why we would hold to a position that we formed with absolutely no study of the facts and in most cases have no experience to indicate that our position is right. Opinions like...if there is a group of men and women together naked, it will soon become an orgy. This position indicates that they have not read any accounts of a family friendly naturist resort and it is certain proof that they have no experience in the matter either.

As we mentioned above, study is work and the world/Satan provide a lot of distractions from it. Few people study because there are so many things that consume our time...things like our jobs, our families, sports, recreation, television, the internet and smart phones and the list could go on and on. If you are going to study for yourself, you'll need to verify that your source is reliable as information today is often changed to favor the highest bidder or the group that can exert the greatest threat. Most, if not all of us have been in Facebook jail at least a time or two and some of us have even been removed for our beliefs. The bias in media today is seemingly at the highest level in history. You will have to choose your

sources carefully to learn the truth. We recommend starting with the Word of God. Some have said to trust your heart or the leaning of the Holy Spirit, but the Bible warns us about this in **Jeremiah 17:9** where it says that **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?** Sometimes we can inadvertently blame our decisions on the leaning of the Holy Spirit when, in reality...we were simply doing what we wanted. We should always compare our “leanings” to the Bible to make sure that we aren’t “leaning” on our own understanding and just blaming it on God.

To not have an opinion on a subject seems to be considered a bad thing, so most people will do what the Apostle Peter did from time to time and that is to say something even if it’s not the right thing just to avoid the negative perception of being ignorant on a given subject. What they soon figure out is that to be wrong is even more negative so, they feel the need to defend their baseless opinion at all costs. Sounds crazy you say...the problem is that it is true. We have met so many people with so many opinions on naturism who have never looked to the scriptures for their facts, never studied the subject even from other sources like AANR or TNS or the massive amounts of information readily available online, who have never read the books from authors like Frost or Bowman or Cunningham or Hatton and who have absolutely no experience in the matter. Despite their ignorance they say whatever it takes to try to save face, the sad part is that they, like Peter just end up looking more foolish than if they hadn’t said anything at all. Just remember that God is not fooled. Our advice is to not feel the need to correct those who do not really want to learn the truth. A mature person will let someone stay ignorant when he learns that they want to be right more than they want to know the truth. In other words, you cannot force people to see the error of their ways. You must remember that the attitude you are dealing with is expressed by the one-liner, “*the trouble with people who think they know it all is that they make it difficult for those of us who really do*”(humor intended). The ignorant person is the one who knows it all and if you try to help them see their error, they will see you as one who thinks he knows it all. If the ignorant person is not seeking the truth, we believe that it is wise to treat them like the father treated the prodigal son. He waited till the son “came to himself” or came to his senses. There is very little chance of helping before that point. The father did not try to talk his son into staying or seek him to bring him back, but like the father we also need to run to meet them once we see that they are headed home.