

2.18.19 – Rebuttal of A Website Quote Condemning All Nudity

Here is a quote from a web site I found while looking to see if I could find some verses to show that the Bible is opposed to nakedness:

Nudity now has implications of sinfulness attached to it. With few exceptions, the Bible presents nakedness as shameful and degrading (Genesis 9:21; Exodus 20:26; 32:25; 2 Chronicles 28:19; Isaiah 47:3; Ezekiel 16:35-36; Luke 8:27; Revelation 3:17; 16:15; 17:16). The only passages in which nudity is free of shame are those that describe Eden's idyllic setting or that deal with marital relations (Proverbs 5:18-19; Song of Solomon 4).

I will react to each verse below; but first notice, if you have been reading our articles, what is missing. Isaiah 20 is not in the list. Surely to prove the Bible is opposed to nakedness, some explanation is needed for God commanding a prophet to go naked for over 3 years. Also, note that the verse where the Spirit of God caused King Saul to strip and remain naked a whole day along with the rest of the prophets (1 Samuel 19:24) is missing. To show something in the Bible, all verses on the subject must be considered in context or you might end up with a false doctrine or even a doctrine contrary to scripture itself. Sometimes a knowledge of the customs is needed, like Joseph and Mary in Mat 1:19-25. Sometimes you need to know the political situation at the time, like all the stir in Jerusalem when "three wise men" showed up on camels.

Picking a set of verses out of many on the topic allows the author to get the result he wants rather than simply finding the truth. Much doctrinal error is created and promoted this way. If the set of verses does not make a strong enough case for the point you are "proving" then you can always misrepresent the verse, like falsely claiming that Isaiah was wearing undergarments in Isaiah 20. This is exactly why everyone needs to read and study the Bible for himself. You will not be able to detect all the errors, but you will notice more than you would without study.

So, let's take a look at each of the verses that the author of the quote claims are clearly anti-nudity verses.

(Genesis 9:21 And he drank of the wine and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. Without looking at the following verses in this

story or elsewhere in scripture, there is nothing shameful in this verse. It is a statement of the setting of the story. The "tense" of the Hebrew word used here could be translated "uncovered himself". So, Noah was drunk and naked in his tent. The naked part probably happened often on hot days. I do not see any statement or implication that his nakedness was sinful in this verse. What happened next can largely be attributed to the fact that he was drunk not that he was naked for if he had not been drunk he would have had the mental and physical capacity to stop it.

Exodus 20:26 Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon. This verse is for priests at the altar. We would need another verse stating that this applies to everyone at all times if we are going to state that being naked is sinful. This verse is simply stating how God wanted this specific duty performed. Sometimes there are big consequences for not doing things God's way. Ask Moses (**Num 20:8,11**) how important it is to talk to the rock instead of hitting it a second time. Methods are important to God.

Exodus 32:25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:). The Hebrew word translated "naked" here is used 16X in the Old Testament and translated naked only in this verse and "make naked" in the next verse. It could be translated uncovered or exposed. If you read the whole story you know that they were worshiping the golden calf a little over a month since hearing God tell them not to worship idols. So, the shame is disobeying a direct command by idol worship and providing a great opportunity for an enemy attack. This verse is not saying all nakedness is a shame. Nakedness to worship an idol is a shame and not being on guard in enemy lands is a shame. There are too many other positive verses regarding nakedness to even attempt to assert that this verse is referring to simply being naked.

2 Chronicles 28:19 For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he made Judah naked, and transgressed sore against the LORD.

If you read the whole chapter you will notice that many of the neighboring kingdoms were capturing cities in Judah. Since the sin that easily beset Judah at that time was idolatry and Ahaz was a big promoter of that sin, God removed His protection which left Judah exposed to their enemies. It makes no sense that a nation would be without clothing, but it does make sense that a nation would be defenseless.

Isaiah 47:3 Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.

This is God speaking to Babylon through Isaiah about their destruction. The Hebrew word used here is the one that usually implies that sex is involved. In the earlier verses Babylon is represented as a wealthy woman, so God saying that He would “**not meet thee as a man**” would suggest that sex is what the word implies in this case as in almost all the other cases where this Hebrew word is used. This is so obviously not referring to simply being naked as God intended. This is, in fact referring to sex outside of marriage which we agree that the Bible clearly teaches against. Nakedness for sex outside marriage is always a sin and a shame!

Ezekiel 16:35-36 Wherefore, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD: Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness discovered through thy whoredoms with thy lovers, and with all the idols of thy abominations, and by the blood of thy children, which thou didst give unto them;

This is the same Hebrew word as in the verse above and the context of the two verses is enough to see that simply being naked is not what God is talking about. The author is lumping sexual nakedness outside of marriage and non-sexual every day routine nakedness together and hoping we would condemn them both because one is a sin and shame and one is clearly not based on all of the other verses in scripture.

Luke 8:27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.

Here we need Paul Harvey to give us "the rest of the story". If the man was as wild as the story suggests, he did not have any way to pay for clothing which was very expensive during this time due to the process involved and the time it took to make clothing. Mark 5:5 tells us that he cut himself with stones, so even if he had clothing he would have torn them to pieces like the chains and fetters they tried to control him with. Assuming, because one demon possessed man was naked and put clothing on after Jesus cast out the demons, that all nakedness is a sign of demon possession or demon oppression would be totally wrong. If that were the case then King David, the Prophets, Isaiah, Peter, Jesus Himself and many others then had to be demon possessed as well and we know that's just not true. We also cannot assume that Jesus told him he needed to put some clothing on in order to be

in his company. If that were true, then blind Bartimaeus would not have been allowed to be in Jesus' company when Jesus healed him. It may be that the weather conditions were favorable for clothing and with the demons gone he could finally keep clothing on. So, like the lame that were healed and were leaping and walking this man was wearing clothing. If we are going to use this example as a basis for doctrine, we need more than one example and no counter examples. I cannot think of another example where a naked person got right with God and put on clothing, but I can give multiple counter examples as the ones mentioned above and many more.

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

This verse is addressed to a church (**church of the Laodiceans**) and like the symbolic national nakedness mentioned above, the nakedness mentioned here is also symbolic. The people who make up the church are looking at the world and the temporal blessings it gives and not at God and His spiritual blessings. They had the best the world could supply but could not name the first 5 books of the Bible or the 4 gospels. This phrase was symbolic of their spiritual condition, not their physical condition and it meant that they could not recognize their need.

Rev 16:15 - Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

This verse is about the end of the tribulation. The verse before talks about gathering the nations for war. God is planning a surprise attack and the reader is told to watch and be ready. The Greek word translated "shame" is only used here and in Rom 1:27 where it is translated, "that which is unseemly". The meaning here is that they would be unprepared for what is coming and that to their shame. If this verse means that all nakedness is shame (which textile people read as sin), then you have a conflict with the examples of nakedness where Jesus is in the presence of the naked individual without condemnation or where God commanded the nakedness of the individual. God is the author of the Bible and He is not the author of confusion (conflict), but if this verse meant that all nakedness is a shame or a sin, then God would indeed be promoting confusion and the Author of that confusion.

Rev 17:16 - And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

Verse 18 of this chapter explains that the woman is a city and naked does not mean without clothing when applied to a city. Defenseless/without protection would fit with the other punishments mentioned in the verse.

I do not think the author of the quote looked at the verses that he listed. If he did it was a very quick look with no thought of the message or meaning of the verses. None of his verses condemn non-sexual family friendly nakedness or what we like to refer to as naturism. Nakedness for sex outside marriage is clearly condemned by some of the verses he mentioned and many others in scripture, but that is not the same thing as family friendly non-sexual nakedness. His broad statement of condemnation is not supported by his verses or the many other verses that show acceptance and even encouragement of family friendly nakedness in the Bible.

As an additional note, I'd like to address the very first statement of the quote... *"Nudity now has implications of sinfulness attached to it."* This may very well be true, but that does not mean that the implications are accurate. I'd even go so far as to say that those implications can be directly attributed to Pastors who are misinformed, misquote scripture and change the meaning of verses and words to fit their own agenda not the Bible's clear teaching. God said of Adam and Eve's nakedness that they were made in His image and that their nakedness was "good." We believe that, in an effort to teach that sex outside of marriage is bad, the church has gone too far and has begun teaching that nakedness is bad. If indeed we were created in the very image and likeness of God and He wanted His image and likeness displayed, then the only one who benefits by covering it up is Satan as he cannot stand God or the creation that was made in His image. We believe that a Bible world view is the means to correct all the wrongs in society. Clearly God intended for His image to be on display so that is how we should live. Some have come to the conclusion that if we all lived as God intended from the beginning that the porn industry would not have near the influence it currently has on society. That if children were raised in a naturist home then the temptations of the opposite sex would not be near as strong as the site of a naked body would be routine. We concur with these ideas and hope that you will see that living as God intended is the Bible way and choose to follow His Word and His will rather than church teachings

and traditions. There was a day when even the church had it right as baptisms were performed in the naked and unashamed condition, let's face it...you were born the first time naked and unashamed then it is fitting that you should be born again in the naked and unashamed condition that God intended. Sadly, the church has led the way to the departure of God's intentions and it would appear that the only one happy about it is Satan.