

6.1.20 – Private Parts

I saw a meme recently that made the statement; the invention of clothing made it possible to have private parts. I read an article claiming private rooms with doors were a negative for family life. If private parts are bad and private rooms are bad, then it begs the question, is privacy ever good? We will give the answer that I get from my wife when I ask a question that seems simple and should be a simple "yes" or "no" answer. Needless to say, that those words are not in her vocabulary. I am expected to condense what she says into either a yes or a no. The key here is that we do not think there is a single answer that applies to every individual at all times.

God created us naked and declared that "very good". If God wanted parts hidden or private then He would have enclosed them inside the body. The body has lots of parts that are hidden inside. Therefore, I believe we can safely conclude that the parts that God left visible He wanted seen. Judging some parts more attractive than others is a learned behavior and needs to be tested by what the Bible says on the subject. We have been studying the Bible and nakedness for several years now and have found nothing indicating that God wanted any parts of the body hidden by clothing. God's declaration that the creation was very good with Adam and Eve naked would indicate that we will not find God wanting any parts of the body hidden. This should close the discussion, but for most Christians we know that this basic logic will not suffice.

So, we ask the question...is it important to have private body parts? Do we need to keep certain parts hidden away like they are some sort of valuable item that no one can know we have so that no one breaks in to steal? Do we need to keep certain parts hidden away so that we preventing someone from coveting them or worse yet lusting after them? We have already discussed in great detail that problems like these are problems of the heart and nothing we do or do not do can help them. The heart condition is an inside job. We have also found that lots of exposure to the naked body in a non-sexual

environment leads to less lust not more due to the commonplace of the condition. You can look up the other articles on this site for more information on the topic.

We believe that breaking down the body into parts can lead to objectification of those parts of the body or the whole body instead of seeing it as the housing of a person not a pleasure machine. Again, since there are no instructions or implications anywhere in scripture that God wants parts of the body covered to keep them private, we can safely surmise that God does not want parts of the body "private". I do not know of a good counter argument against God's position on the topic. There are to be no private parts of the body, every part is special as it is related to the whole. The apostle Paul dealt with this when writing under the influence of the Holy Spirit he made the statement that there are no less comely parts. God's Word even emphasizes that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

If the body is not intended to be private, what about body functions like eating, drinking, sleeping, bathing, elimination of waste and mating? Eating and drinking are not private activities. They are often shown as public occasions in the Bible. Yes, you can eat in private, but that does not make it a private activity.

Sleeping is not mentioned often in the Bible. The harvesters slept around the grain in the book of Ruth. It was only men judging from what Boas said to Ruth about not letting anyone know of her presence. If the tents in the wilderness had only one room, which seems logical, they had to carry them, then the family slept together. When traveling to the feasts, there probably was not enough room for everyone in the towns along the way. The two angels that visited Lot were planning on sleeping along the street. Groups of travelers must have slept together outside along the road. The crowds that were with Jesus for days, must have slept on location. Jesus and his disciples must have slept together often outside as indicated by the garden of Gethsemane account. Even today children

want to sleep with their parents for comfort and security. Sleeping can be, but apparently does not have to be a private activity.

Elimination of waste was not a private event in Bible times. The Bible speaks of “pissing against the wall”. The draught-house was public with both sexes using the same area. The big cry about men in the ladies’ restroom was unknown in Bible times since there were no separate restrooms. I’d guess that there were less gender identity challenges back then since everyone had a good idea of genders due to the lack of private parts.

Bathing was not private in Bible times and for about 4 centuries after that. If the tent or the cottage had only one room, it was not a bathroom. Bathing was done at a pool or fountain or a nearby stream. Only the wealthy had water storage on the roof for bathing. The Roman baths were public and with mixed genders for most of their history. Notice also that there is no teaching in the New Testament about avoiding them. So, bathing certainly was not a private activity.

Think for a second of how hard it would be today to observe if a man was circumcised or not. You would need a more obvious mark today to tell that someone was a believer or not. Back then, due to the commonplace of nakedness identifying the seed of Abraham was fairly simple. They could easily see who was circumcised and who wasn’t while working in the fields or fishing or carpentry or while bathing at a public bath since all of these activities were done in the nude.

Jhn 3:29 - He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. Jewish history teaches that the "friend of the bridegroom" mentioned here in scripture would guard the door to the room where the bride and groom consummate the marriage and would hear the events inside to

report back to the families that the marriage has been sealed. He was literally a mediator between the two families and had the duty of assuring both families that the marriage was official. Two things stand out to me, first is that his job was to guard the door, so this was at least a semi-private event. Second though was that he was to listen and report so not completely a private event for certain.

History also teaches that most families shared a one room tent or cottage until fairly recently in the grand scheme of things. The children would be aware of their parent's bed time activities by default even if not intentionally. I grew up around animals...dogs, cats, horses, sheep, chickens, etc. Procreation in the animal kingdom is not a private matter. If they had any animals at all they could clearly see what was going on. Combine that with the commonplace of nakedness and they could most likely figure out what was happening. Questions from the kids would need a straight answer with moral principles attached. No hinting or guessing was needed when it was time to talk about the "birds and the bees". You can somewhat see the guy's point about rooms with doors being a block to family training in this area and getting along with others without escaping to your room. It would save the "I'm scared, can I sleep with you" when a nightmare woke a child. Now, please don't misunderstand, I am not advocating for a return to the one room tent for the household! The point is that sex is not dirty or shameful in fact it is a God ordained activity and therefore knowledge of the activity does not need to be hidden in shame. That said, we do not believe it should be a public spectacle either.

No body function must be done in public and none must be done in private. Some are more public than others. Eating is usually done in public and sex is normally done in private, but there are no steadfast "always" or "never" rules here.

What about other activities, are any of them private? The statement that comes to mind is; "we want everyone to know about the good we do and no one to know about the bad." If

this applied to all activities, we could conclude that privacy is an indicator of wrong doing because of our apparent need to hide something.

Mathew 18 indicates that disagreements should be settled in as private a setting as possible. Counseling can be a public (group) or private activity, but is usually most effective when done in private...not because it is a bad activity, but because people are usually more open about their shortcomings or needs when in private.

Gossip is a sin even if it is the truth. That means that some information is to be kept private. This sometimes includes your naturist activities especially in a setting where there are textile addicts present. These addicts might see your activities as sin and therefore material for gossip. Their judgement of your character will be wrong based on assumptions they make. This causes them to believe something about you that is not true.

There have to be some activities that are private or the statement, "That is none of your business." is wrong. Jesus prayed in private. The Apostle Paul met with Jesus in private. Jeremiah met with the king in private.

Your possessions are also a private bit of information. There are two villains in this area; oppressive governments and criminals. Both want what you have and will go to great lengths to take it from you, that is why it is best at times if they simply don't know.

In conclusion, there are several points that we'd like you to consider.

1. God has not listed a single body part as private or in need of covering in His Word.
2. There are many examples of the commonplace of nakedness in God's Word.

3. Many of life's everyday activities during Bible times would point to the lack of privacy in almost if not every circumstance.
4. Even the concept of privacy lends itself to thoughts of hiding something "bad" and since we know there are no "bad" parts then we can safely conclude that no parts need to be private.

Since we know that God made us naked and not ashamed, we can conclude that is how He intended for us to live.

Since the Bible tells us that there are no less comely parts and that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, we can conclude that we have nothing to be ashamed of in the naked condition that he made us in.

Our recommendation would be to enjoy life the way He intended and to not let others opinions that do not line up with scripture influence you against God's way!