

10.21.19 - Allow or Want

Does God want us naked or does He simply allow us to be naked?

This is a question that came up recently. Lacking any direct commands in the Bible on clothing or lack of clothing, makes this a reasonable question. Divorce was allowed by Moses in the Law, but Jesus said that it was only allowed due to the hardness of our hearts, therefore showing us clearly that He wanted us to stay married. **Mat 9:18,19, He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.** Rather clear, God is not for divorce and only allows it reluctantly. So, God does allow things that He does not desire for us...is nakedness one of those allowed things that He doesn't desire or is nakedness in His original plan and His desired way of life for us? We will explore both sides of the question.

Here's how the discussion could go...If God wanted us to be naked, He would have given us instructions about clothing in **Genesis 3:21, Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.** The next verse is about protecting the tree of life, with no instructions on the use of the coats that He just made. We could say that this lack of instruction means that the naturist position is the correct one. On the other hand, textiles could claim that God made it clear that He wanted us clothed when He made the coats to replace Adam & Eve's "fig leaf" aprons. Without considering the tropical climate and Adam and Eve's disobedient nature, they could say that God was not pleased with only aprons because He wanted more of the body covered. We naturists could say that since God did not give any instructions on their use that He wanted us naked whenever

possible and the coats were just there for protection from thorns if needed...see the dilemma?

The tropical climate in the garden would certainly make clothing a burden. God could have created any climate he wanted, but He chose a tropical climate conducive to nakedness. I have been in churches in the summer that had the temperature so low that the women would freeze if they exposed much skin. Naturists could make the case that since the climate that God chose made clothing a burden, then it's obvious that He wanted us naked. It would be interesting to know what Satan used to talk Adam and Eve into the aprons. Adam could certainly see that replacing the fig leaf aprons would be extra work, something we all avoid unless we can see a good reason not to. If they did not obey God's rule about the forbidden fruit, He could be sure that they would not wear much clothing if it was uncomfortable and labor intensive to make. It would seem that God arranged things the way He did because His desire was for His image to be seen.

God created us naked and said it was good, that indicates that He wanted us naked. He could have covered our bodies with fur like our friends in the animal kingdom. God did give us the ability to make clothing which He did not do for any of the other animals. If The biblical naturist position is that since He created us naked and said that it was good, He most likely still wants us naked whenever possible without harming the body. The textiles would claim that since He gave us the ability to make clothing that He wants us clothed. That argument doesn't really hold true though as He gave Adam and Eve the ability to eat the forbidden fruit which He did not want them to do. He even gave a command to not eat it, but no command was ever given about clothing. The ability to do something does not mean God wants it done. Notice all the commands about things not to do that we certainly have the ability to do. The Ten Commandments is a good place to start. If that is not enough to prove the point then go to Leviticus.

We all believe that God is infallible and doesn't do anything without a good reason. The creation is very large and has many systems that need to work together. Even a small error could cause the whole creation to self destruct. Therefore, we may safely and correctly assume that God had a reason to create us naked. He even gave us a huge hint as to His reason for doing so...He told us that He created us in His image therefore, we can safely conclude that He wanted His image displayed. Why create us in His image and then insist that the image needed hidden or covered? God does not need to explain why He does things the way He does, but it's pretty neat when He gives us the why. To question the person in charge implies you do not think the way he is doing things is the best way to do them and that you want to help him do it better. Advice and suggestions can be very helpful for human leaders, but we are not even close to being able to judge if God could or should have done it a better way. However, if you are a textile person then you come awfully close to saying to God that His original plan was flawed and that He should have done it different. I mean, didn't God know how dirty and perverted a human body is...it should have been covered from the beginning! Or maybe you just believe that God's plan was broken or corrupted by the original sin. However, I cannot find anywhere in scripture that the body that God made in His image and wanted it displayed had gone through some sort of major change at the fall and now it no longer represents His image. What we see at the fall instead is Satan's second lie...his first lie was convincing Adam and Eve to disobey and eat the forbidden fruit and the second lie was convincing them to cover their nakedness which God had told them was good. God knew from the beginning there would be a fall. **Rev 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.** The phrase, "slain from the foundation of the world" means it was decided before the world was created, when there was no sin, that Jesus would pay our sin debt. God was the One who declared nakedness good before the eating of the

forbidden fruit, so the "want" side is a little ahead of the "allow" side on this one.

Adam and Eve knew that they were naked before the forbidden fruit episode by simply viewing the animals with fur coats or feathers. Clothing was introduced by someone at the fall if they did not make any effort to clothe themselves before the fall. Even while walking with God and talking with God in the cool of the evening, they saw no need for clothing. God declared nakedness good before the forbidden fruit episode so we know for sure that He did not suggest clothing at the fall. That means that the suggestion came from Satan. God cannot be and is not happy if we follow Satan's suggestions. So, we conclude that God does want us naked, He only allows clothing. Just as God allows divorce, but prefers marriage...God allows clothing, but certainly prefers nakedness.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. We are made in God's image according to the verse above. The verses before this verse are describing the physical world so our physical appearance as well as soul and spirit are in God's image. God and Satan are at war with each other. Which side wants God's image on display as much as possible and who is happiest when the image of God is covered? God declared nakedness good before the fall, the body was not changed by the fall and Satan hates the image of God, then it is obvious that God wants His image on display and Satan does not.

Hopefully it is becoming obvious to you that God wants us naked when possible!