

#### 6.14.21 – Demon Possession and Nudity

Is all nakedness caused by demon possession or oppression? Is being naked like using a weegee board, the door to the demonic? How do Satan and his demons feel about nakedness? How does God feel about nakedness? We will start with the forces of Satan.

It is rather clear that Satan motivated Adam to make clothing after the fall. This suggests that he is against nakedness and yet other scriptures such as this example would suggest that demons and evil spirits are for nakedness: **Act 19:16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.** Here again, it would appear that Satan is opposed to clothing: **Luk 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.** Now we have more questions than before. Does Satan usually favor nakedness? Is Satan unsure how he feels about clothing? Does Satan even care about clothing?

Now we will consider what the Bible says about how God views clothing. He created us naked, and babies came in the same naked condition even after the fall. If God caused thorns to grow, He could have put fur on humans after the fall if He wanted them covered. We take nothing with us when we leave this world, so we are even more naked leaving then when we came because we leave our bodies here. This verse shows that God is not opposed to nakedness otherwise God caused King Saul to sin. **1Sa 19:24 And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets?** If you read the entire passage, you easily conclude that the Holy Spirit led Saul at this time. Please don't miss the fact that the nakedness was taken as a sign that King Saul was among the prophets which would be close to what we call a pastor or preacher today. This implies that the prophets were naked while doing their teaching and preaching. The Holy Spirit does not lead a person to send them into sin which means God does not see nakedness as a sin. This is absolute truth. Here is more evidence of God's position on nakedness: **Isa 20:2 At the same time spake the LORD by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, Go and loose the sackcloth from off thy loins, and put off thy shoe from thy foot. And he did so, walking naked and barefoot.** The Hebrew word used here is the same word used

in the verse above about King Saul, about Adam and Eve before the fall or clothing and of a newborn baby. There is no chance they were wearing undergarments in case you have seen that explanation for naked in these two verses. God allows clothing when needed, but He favors naked otherwise.

The truth is that Satan is opposed to anything God favors. This means that Satan is opposed to nakedness unless there is something that will advance his cause enough to put up with the nakedness. Shame is caused by force. When you've lost in battle and the enemy strips you of your valuables (which would include clothing) the Bible calls it a shame. When you have been stripped of your valuables (clothing included) due to the inability to pay a debt, the Bible refers to that as a shame. When you are stripped for the purpose of having sex against your will (rape), the Bible refers to that as a shame...that you've been shamed.

In the story recorded in Acts 19:13-17, Satan was shaming the men by making them naked which is always a shame if it is forced on someone. He was also showing his power to scare others who might want to try messing with him. Like this could happen to you if you try to throw out my spirits/demons. The story in Luke 8:26-39 Has a similar explanation, Satan was in complete control of the possessed man. He gave him strength, he controlled his speech, controlled where he lived and what he wore. Nakedness was a shame if it was not for the purpose of saving your garment from dirt and damage. Nakedness with no hazard to your garments was a big sign of poverty which was a sign that God did not provide very well for you. The man living among the tombs was not working to earn clothing if he had no control of himself. His nakedness had two reasons, he was forced by the evil spirits to be naked and by poverty to be naked. Jesus may have provided a garment like he fed the thousands with a small lunch or someone in the crowd may have given a garment to the man. Certainly, the man was given control of his mind and body. Jesus met both his physical needs (clothing) and spiritual needs (freedom from evil spirits).

We have heard preachers teach that nakedness is a sign that you are demon possessed or at the very least demon influenced. We know of no other story of casting out evil spirits with nakedness included in the account. To support the theory, the preachers are using only one verse without looking for others to verify the doctrine. They are comparing forced nakedness with voluntary nakedness. Voluntary nakedness was very common at this time. Bathing was done in public, fishing was done naked to keep the smell and dirt off the garments, field work was done naked to keep garments clean and avoid damaging them and there are many other examples. The poor certainly gave up their clothing before they became

slaves because they could not pay their debts. If nakedness is a sign of demon possession, then Jesus was demon possessed when he laid his garments (plural) aside to wash the feet of the disciples. The slave who washed the feet of the guests was naked. Peter also would have been demon possessed when he went fishing after the Crucifixion. As you can see, the teaching that nudity is caused by demon influence is based on one verse misapplied to an entirely different area and does not match the Bible teaching when taken in its entirety.

A saved person has the Holy Spirit living in him. They are the temple of God. Evil spirits do not dwell with God so the naked saved person cannot be demon possessed. He can only be influenced by evil spirits. It may be difficult to tell the difference between possessed and influenced, but the saved person has a choice while the possessed person is a slave to the evil spirit. The verses above show that an evil spirit can force a person to be naked but being forced to do anything is a shame and an indication that you do not have control of yourself.

Satan is opposed to voluntary nakedness (putting God's image on open display). However, and this is the key so please take note...Satan uses nakedness to disgrace God's image. When the religious (modern Pharisees) people are wearing about as much clothing as they will endure, Satan sells nakedness in a disgraceful pose or activity so the religious feel good about their clothing rules. With very few examples of the acceptable way to display God's image (naturist activities) the disgraceful display makes the religious hang tighter to their clothing and continue serving Satan's wishes of covering God's image.

Voluntary nakedness for personal enjoyment like hiking, swimming, gardening, sunbathing, etc. or for work such as housework, construction, etc. is approved by God and opposed by Satan. These activities will not expose you to any demon possession and in fact, are pleasing in the sight of God who created you in His image and then left that image on display for His glory.