

## 9.28.20 – Dangerous Ideas 2.0

We are going to explore a reason for suppressing certain ideas and the people who hold those ideas. This reason is used in all areas of our lives, but we are going to get our examples from the naturism and textile conflict in Christianity. Yes, we have written on this topic before, but there are few topics that relate to naturism that we have not written about before. If you want us to expound on a topic that we haven't mentioned yet, please let us know and we will see what we can do for you. Maybe we'll both learn something new this time around.

If we can label an idea dangerous, can we then regulate the idea and the people who believe it? Let's use the illustration of driving a motor vehicle at high speeds or even driving under the influence. Do we believe that these actions can be considered dangerous? Of course, we do, that's why we make regulations against them. Can this same reasoning apply to naturism? You better believe it can and it does. The speeding car may need your side of the road to make a turn with disastrous results. Impaired judgement from drugs can lead to a bad accident that would not have happened if the driver was not impaired. But alas, we are comparing activities to ideas. Yes, ideas lead to activities, but we can only punish correctly for activities. As of yet we do not punish people for their ideas...or do we? How many of you have been put in Facebook jail for sharing your ideas with the public? Even if you haven't yet, all of us have ideas that would get us punished if we acted on those ideas.

Do all ideas lead to activities? I am sure you only need to look at yourself for the answer to that one. What idea went through your mind the last time you were cut off in traffic. We are assuming you did not act on it. If you could get away with it, what would you do to some guy who is acting like a jerk? Again, the condition suggests that you do not always act on ideas. None of us act on all ideas that come to mind. That means we choose which ideas to act on and which ones to pass on without acting.

Since we do not act on all ideas, there has to be a method of deciding which ideas to act on and which to dismiss without action. Certainly, a part of what influences our decisions are past experiences. Most children only need one bad burn to heed the "hot" warning from that time forward. We can not depend on this for all ideas because the "burn" could be fatal. For these ideas we need training. How to drive safely, how to handle a firearm safely, which mushrooms are safe to eat and which ones are not, etc. Is it possible that the incorrect assumptions about the dangers of naturism might just come from a lack of experience and / or knowledge?

We at Naked & Unashamed have become more convinced of this as we find new deceits that Satan has sold the church. "If you do not believe as we do then we would like you to find another church" is far too common of an experience. You may get that message from attitudes, behaviors or body language instead of a direct statement, but sometimes you'll get the direct statement as well. The truth is much easier to find in a free exchange of ideas then when there is a danger of being ousted for thinking outside of the proverbial box. Part of our training for idea management should be exposure to many ideas and what could or would happen if we acted on them. Like going outside without clothing could be an experience in freedom or it might end with an invitation to meet with the local law enforcement officer depending on the situation.

How is an idea determined to be dangerous by certain cultures? They do not usually have an "idea censoring committee". Usually if the idea is new, such as...the Bible does not condemn non-sexual nakedness, someone in authority or someone with influence makes the decision that the idea is dangerous and the culture typically follows along without questioning what the biblical basis is for the decision. This reaction is basically following the "what we have always done before" method. Very rarely do we see the "lets check to see what the Bible says on the subject" method. The culture seems to forget that it only takes a little error applied often to lead to a big deceit.

Is a naked body dangerous? We have found that the fear of the naked body is more dangerous than the naked body itself. It's like dealing with snakes. In the vast majority of snake encounters, more people are injured by trying to get away from a snake in panic than there are people actually injured by a snake. The panic and fear cause people to injure themselves way more than the snake injures them. Once people experience non-sexual social nudity such as at a family friendly resort or campground, the normalness of the situation can be a bit of a bore compared to what they imagined it might be like. People are gardening, mowing the lawn, playing sports, swimming in the pool, reading a book, having a conversation, etc.

Could the danger be in stirring up God's wrath? Only if God's wrath could be stirred up by showing His image without shame. Besides that, God is not easily provoked. He is longsuffering towards us. He is not looking for a reason to straighten us up. He wants to help us show His power and His image through our lives. Read 2 Kings to see how often He helps when His people do not deserve it. We are as "straight" in God's eyes as we can get due to having His Holy Spirit living in us. God sees His Son when he looks at us. We can not be better than Jesus at pleasing the Father.

God created us naked and we all come into this world naked. Nakedness was very common during Bible times without a single negative comment in the Bible about nakedness and not a single time that God called nakedness a sin. Keep in mind that shame is not the same as sin. God is much more likely to react negatively to covering His greatest creation and especially while claiming that it is somehow better or more righteous with clothing on than it is showing His masterpiece without covering. Like you are somehow improving His greatest creation by covering it...how arrogant we are when we say to God that His masterpiece is better now that we've hidden it.

Many times, we use children to declare an idea dangerous. Yes, there are ideas that children cannot understand and certainly children are not ready to deal with adult problems. We should therefore not expect children to understand a concept that they are too young to grasp. We also try to protect children from adult problems. Children are not harmed by seeing a naked body of any age or gender. If seeing naked bodies was a common experience to them, then they would not see the body as something dirty or that needs hidden. They would not need to imagine what is under the clothing and search the internet to satisfy their curiosity. They would not learn to equate nakedness with sex. Nakedness would be better for children than being taught that their bodies are somehow dirty and need to be hidden. Which is a more dangerous idea...nonsexual nakedness being commonplace to a child or teaching them about sex and perversities at an early age? Which is a more dangerous idea...keeping their little minds pure or sexualizing them while so young and innocent? We certainly aren't suggesting to not protect them from those who intend to do them harm, but we are certainly suggesting to let pure minds stay pure for as long as humanly possible. Taking something pure like running around the house or backyard naked while at play and making it into something dirty, perverse or perverted for no reason seems to us way more dangerous an idea.

A couple of questions in conclusion. Why does the church see naturism as such a dangerous idea? Is naturism a dangerous idea? If you are opposed to God's view of His most prized creation, then yes, I suppose it can be a dangerous idea. We'll let you decide...