

## Troublesome Verses...

If you believe that social nakedness is a sin according to the Bible, we have some verses that will give you some serious headaches with your belief. We certainly will not have time to mention all the verses that will give you trouble, but we should have enough to cause you to doubt the validity of your belief...that is if you are willing to take an honest look at the Bible...unfortunately we have found that most won't. How sad is it that we have heard more times than not from self-proclaimed Bible believers that "they don't care what the Bible says, they know how they feel" or "their church teaches" or "their pastor says". For Christians, the Word of God should be the final authority and the objective standard! However, when faced with something that is Bible based, but counter to their current culture it is difficult to overcome most of the time.

We will start with the first social nakedness story in the Bible, Adam and Eve in the garden before the fall.

**Gen 2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.** This is before the fall you say. Yes but, God is pleased because He said **Gen 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.** The fall changed all that you claim. How can rebellion about God's rule change God's mind about nakedness no longer being part of "very good"? Even a logical answer to that question is not proof that God now sees nakedness as sin. God made coats implies that He wanted them covered you say. Adam and Eve were married by God himself. There were no other people to be offended by their nakedness and I'll bet you allow husbands and wives to be naked together. You would allow them to be naked even today under those conditions. God gave no instructions on when they needed to wear the coats and we are not told what needed to be covered. Surely, if God saw nakedness as a sin like it is seen by the majority of Christians today, He would have given instructions about when the coats needed to be worn and what they needed to cover.

The many other verses in God's Word that indicate that He does not see nakedness as sinful would need to be explained away before we can conclude the coats now mean that clothing is required to avoid sin. Any verse or passage that some try to use as anti-naked must be twisted in order to say that God sees nakedness as sin. God is not the author of confusion so He is either for nakedness or against it or He does not care either way. If there are verses that are used to say it is sin and verses that clearly indicate that it is not then we are left not knowing which it is. So, if you see a conflict then you need to realize that you must be misinterpreting some of the verses to force them to say what you want them to say...either that or God is double minded and confused Himself.

Next we will go to the story of King Saul who is trying to murder David his son-in-law. **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?** Some will try to say that King Saul only took off his outer garments. Did you notice the word used by the translators for garment is plural? How do you deal with the implication that the prophets were preaching in their underwear? Or how could the prophets afford two garments when many people could not afford any clothing due to the high cost of clothing and food? Most of the financial references to prophets have them in the poor class. The Hebrew word used for naked in this verse is the same word used in the above verse about Adam and Eve before clothing was invented. The word is also used to describe a new born baby in Job. Only removing outer garments does not fit with that Hebrew word. Changing the word naked here to mean in one's underwear is making the Bible fit your view rather than changing your view to fit the Bible.

**1Sa 19:20 And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.** Notice why the messengers join the prophets-**the Spirit of God**. If it was God's hand that caused the messengers to not fulfill their mission we may safely assume it was the same hand that caused Saul to strip. If that is true, then God caused Saul to go into sin if nakedness is a sin, but God does not cause anyone to go into sin. He gives us a free will which allows us to sin. You could try to explain why, without influence from God, Saul would want to strip when his mission was to murder David, otherwise you have God causing someone to go against His purposes and go into sin. It would be a little like instructing your child not to step in a puddle of muddy water and pushing him so he has to step in the water to keep his balance. It would be unjust to punish the child for stepping into the puddle. Claiming that nakedness is approved if God commands it or causes someone to strip leads people to falsely claim that God forced them to strip so they will be approved for their behavior.

The next verse is very similar to the one about King Saul except that this time it states that God commanded the nakedness. **Isa 20:2-4 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. And the LORD said, Like as my servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia; So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.** In these verses God instructs Isaiah to strip and Isaiah does as he is commanded. And just in case you wondered if he was fully naked or just in his undergarments the Bible tells us that he was even barefoot so God was instructing complete

and total nakedness. The Hebrew word used in this passage is the same word that is used 16 times in the Old Testament and translated naked all 16 times. It is used for a body without clothing or new born babies.

Notice that it is a shame to be naked, you say. Really, is shame the same as sin? Sin is an act of disobedience...shame is a feeling. The shame in these verses is not so much from the nakedness as it is from the cause of their nakedness. They could have been clothed in sackcloth or in prison coveralls and felt the same shame because their shame was caused by the fact that they had been conquered. The shame associated with nakedness depends on why the person is naked. If a husband and wife decide to undress to be more intimate, there is no feeling of shame associated with the nakedness even for people who think social nakedness is sin. If a rapist attacks the same wife as in the example above and strips her clothing from her before she escapes, she will feel shame about her nakedness even though she shouldn't...both naked...one ashamed and one not. The nakedness is not the cause of the shame, the circumstance is. There is not a single verse in scripture where simple nakedness is called shameful.

Here is an example with God being the naked one. **Jhn 13:4,5 He (Jesus the Christ) riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.** Notice "garments" is plural. The most anyone wore in those days was two garments, so we can rest assured that He was naked. The textile believers say He used the towel as a loin cloth. Think about that a little. How would it work to wipe the feet of the disciples with a towel wrapped around your waist. It would come off the first time He used it to wipe feet, and the second time if He put it back around his waist, and the third time. This would call more attention to His body, which was not the purpose of the washing, then having it around His neck where it would be handy for wiping feet. This task was assigned to the lowest slave in the household. Jesus Christ was demonstrating how humble we needed to be when interacting with our brethren (How much we are entitled to because of our position).

Next we will deal with God's (Jesus Christ after His resurrection) reaction to naked disciples. **Jhn 21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.** Peter was naked to keep his only expensive garment clean and fish odor free. You can be sure the other disciples did the same for the same reason. If you read the rest of the story, you will be surprised that the Lord Jesus did not say anything to Peter or the other disciples about their nakedness. If you try to cover that omission by saying that everything is not recorded in the Bible, you also have to explain why the Holy Spirit did not think it was important enough to include. Based on this event, it is also probable

that some of the apostles were naked when Christ called them into ministry while they were working their nets, etc.

If you are able to give an explanation for all these verses in light of social nakedness being a sin in God's eyes, we could come up with a few more for you to explain, **Exo 29:4 And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water.** There could have been a few million people watching this washing. **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?** We did not deal with the question at the end of this verse. Why would such a question come up at this time? **Luk 17:8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?** Could it be that the servant was working in the fields naked that he needed to gird himself?

Maybe you can not use the Bible to show that social nakedness is a sin. Maybe it is a tradition of men that helps Satan keep people bound by porn and depression over body image. Maybe we should be studying our Bible instead of just reading it to get a check mark.