

## 7.29.19 - Fear

There are two sides of fear that we'd like to address in this brief article. The first fear to becoming a naturist is the fear of what others will think of me physically (ie - I'm too fat or I'm too skinny or I'm too short or I have small body features here or there, etc.). The second fear to becoming a naturist is the fear of what others will think of me spiritually or socially (ie – what will my friends think if they find out or if they see me at a resort or if they come by the house unannounced, etc.). In fact, so much of the hesitation to becoming a naturist is based in fear that we felt the need to write an article on the subject. The word “fear” is used 400 times in the KJV which is a lot of verses to study. There are 25 Hebrew and 10 Greek words translated "fear" at least once... As you would guess there are a lot of shades of fear. We want to look at some of these shades that relate to Christian naturism.

Here is a definition from *Webster's Dictionary 1828 - Online Edition* *In scripture, fear is used to express a filial or a slavish passion. In good men, the fear of God is a holy awe or reverence of God and his laws, which springs from a just view and real love of the divine character, leading the subjects of it to hate and shun every thing that can offend such a holy being, and inclining them to aim at perfect obedience. This is filial fear.*

**Jer 32:39 - And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:.** In order to fear God properly we need to know who He is and what He wants from us. Both are found in the scriptures. Satan does not want us knowing the real God, proven by the perversions of scriptures, traditions that conflict with scriptures and legalistic doctrines to mention a few evidences. The Hebrew word translated "fear" in this verse is translated "reverence" in other verses. Either word applies to God. He would be the most frightening foe and He can do anything He wants in the universe which deserves our respect.

Here is another definition from the same dictionary: *FEAR is the passion of our nature which excites us to provide for our security, on the approach of evil.* The following verse illustrates the idea rather well: **Gen 32:11 - Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.**

This type of fear is what we need to avoid the hazards of life, like drink plenty of water when it is dry and hot outside, to use sunscreen on exposed skin till you have a tan, to wear clothing when it is too cold to go without. We need to keep this fear, but it needs to be controlled. Some hazards need to be endured. We can not stay home because we might have an auto accident on the way to work, church or vacation.

**Pro 29:25 - The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.** You can see that a prophet and patriarch can still fear man seen in the verse from Genesis above. If Jacob had tried to hide from Esau, then Esau would have been a snare to him. The snare comes into effect when men keep us from God's will or enjoying this life as God intended. If the fear of what your supposed friends will think keep you from going to a naturist resort or other naturist activities then they are a snare to you following God's leading. You do not need to tell them you are engaged in naturist activities, in fact you probably should not tell them, but you need to be willing to live with the reaction if they learn what you are doing and believe. You should have an answer ready if they ask questions which you would probably have before trying any naturist activities outside your home.

A cause of fear might be helpful at this point. **Gen 3:8 - And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.** This is after the fall, but it does not seem to be an

unusual event. They knew that it was God with them so He had been with them often enough that they knew His voice and walk. Before the fall they probably would have gone to meet Him where He usually appeared, maybe been waiting to see Him. Now they hid themselves, why the difference? They had been dealing with Satan, who is no friend of man or God, and he was teaching (deceiving) them fear of God and guilt for disobedience among other things. Now they saw themselves deserving God's wrath for their disobedience. They believed what Satan said about God's nature. Lack of understanding or misunderstanding open us to fear. We do not know what to do so we panic. Satan is still deceiving us today as noted above. Jesus paid the debt for our sins on the cross. We do not need to feel guilt for sin, but we do need to study God's Word to learn about God's nature to avoid being deceived.

It is clear that, aside from the fear of God mentioned above, fear does not come from God. "Fear not" appears 63 times in the KJV, many times from God to man. **2Ti 1:7 - For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.** The Greek word for "fear" in this verse is only used once in the New Testament. The Bible usage outline lists timidity, fearfulness, cowardice which makes it easier to understand what the verse is saying. The Greek word for "love" in this verse is "agape" which is the highest form of love. Timidity, fearfulness and cowardice does not come from God, which leaves self and Satan for their origin.

This verse indicates that love and fear can not exist together: **1Jo 4:18 - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.** This Greek word for "fear" is almost always translated fear or something close to that, which gives little insight what shade of fear is intended. With agape love involved in the verse, Saint John is talking about relationships. It implies that

relationships are based on fear or love, but not both at the same time.

**Mar 4:40 - And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?** This is Jesus talking to the disciples after He told the wind to be calm and it obeyed Him. He seems to be saying that you can not have faith and fear at the same time. Fear would then be a lack of faith. If you do not have faith in God's word about naturist actives then you fear to try them. Romans 10:17 says **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** If you study the Word of God on the subject then you should come to the conclusion that God is for non-sexual family friendly nakedness, proper study of the Word on the subject should increase your faith! If there is still fear, then you may have to join this father who asked for healing for his child: **Mar 9:24 - And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.** for the first time doing a new activity.

It would be nice if the English language had more common words for fear so it would be obvious when we read a verse that it means reverence or cowardice or faithlessness or without love. I do not see any changes coming which leaves us with a need to study to learn what "fear" is being used. That may not be bad, I can not take too much insight or knowledge at one time. Let me fit this new thought in where it belongs before you give me another. It is like trying to get a whole month's worth of weeds out of your garden at once. Maybe just mow it all down and hope next year I will be able to keep after better. But in life there is no next "year" to try to do it better, so you need to deal with the "weeds" one area at a time.

Since the textile position has no Biblical base, they need some other control to keep people from learning the truth or having to admit that the textile position is in error (wrong). Some methods

used are, name calling (everyone fears a bad name), shame (everyone fears embarrassment), gag order (fear of rejection), refusing to talk to anyone who does not believe as they do (fear of rejection). We already pointed out that God is not the cause of fear. It follows that God is not for their position if they use fear as a way to advance their position.

Ultimately, you will probably have to choose to overcome your fears. You will probably have to choose between pleasing man and pleasing God. Man, even Christian man will not quickly accept the Bible position on naturism because it is countercultural. But a sincere and earnest study of the Word will only lead one to the conclusion that God made the body, He made it in His image, He made it to be displayed to show off His image and His creation and that Satan seems to be the only one promoting hiding it...from Adam and Eve right on up until today. You will need to choose to either let fear reign in your mortal bodies or to be like the “just” and live by faith.

Our desire in this website and these articles is to give you enough Bible to increase your faith. Our suggestion is to let faith reign and trust God...doing it His way is always the best way. We have found that living as God intended has been one of the best decisions of our lives and we trust that you will find that true in your life as well!