

7.6.20 - Lust and Solutions

We are going to comment on another quote from Aaron Frost's book entitled Christian Body - Modesty and the Bible. This is a whole paragraph near the end of the chapter on "The Fall". Aaron has the ability to put a lot of thoughts in a few sentences. We will break it up into smaller thoughts and comment on them. We will say in a lot of words what Aaron said in a few hoping to add to the message of the quote...

The Bible tells us that temptation is caused by lust **James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.** *and lust is the choice of those who are dissatisfied with living God's way. Lust is the choice of those who harbor repressed desire behind religious fear.* I have read that verse many times and do not remember getting the connection between "lust" and "temptation". The Greek word for lust in this verse could be translated "long for" and the negative connotation suggests it is something outside God's will for you. Please keep in mind that lust in and of itself is not always a negative thing. For instance, we could long for a better relation with God. We could long for peace for our nation. We could long for souls to be saved. All of these "lusts" would certainly be within the will of God. So, there are bad things we lust for and good things that we lust for. The key is that our mind/brain goes to work finding ways to get what we long for. Some of these ways will be acceptable to God and others not. Temptations are those that lead us away from God, which is obviously Satan's goal.

All of us are faced with areas where we *are dissatisfied with living God's way*. Why do we have to follow all these rules and why can't we just do whatever we want to? Vengeance belongs to God, but He does not act like He even noticed the hurt they caused me. Maybe it is time to help God a little in this case. I could be popular, wealthy, famous or happy if I bent the rules a little. This is not all the possibilities, but it is enough to get the idea that we all have something God seems to be with holding

from us. It is the thought time we spend on these ideas that strengthens lust, our dissatisfaction with God, and opens temptation's door.

Religious fear is a false belief of how God treats us. Yes, He destroyed all the people who lived before the flood except Noah and his family, but that is not the way He wanted to influence them. He does have the power to destroy us as well which should influence us, but many people do not believe God has that ability or they think He would not use it. He wants followers who are influenced by love not fear. Fear is Satan's tool. Wanting to visit porn sites, but not doing so because God will punish me is the "religious fear" motivation. Not visiting porn sites because I would hurt God is the "love" motivation. The fear motivation leaves the mind looking for a way to get what you long for and avoid what you fear. A way to get what you want without getting caught. Temptation is, try it once and see how bad the punishment is. God usually does not discipline the first time you step off the path that He wants you to walk, but that is often taken as "I got away with it." Now we are on the road to see how far we can go before getting caught. Please note, the "love" motivation would not look for a way to get away with it.

Those who know the gospel and the saving power of grace to set hearts free should not preach that man's laws of coverage and shame are the path to Biblical purity! We should know that "such laws are of no value against fleshly indulgence" **Col 2: 23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.** The word "Gospel" is Greek for "good news". In the Bible, the news is that our sins are paid for. That all we need to do is ask for forgiveness and accept the gift that Jesus paid for by suffering on the cross. Only those who are too proud to accept the gift and those who think their righteousness will be enough to earn forgiveness will have to pay for their sins themselves.

Jhn 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. The Greek words for the two words "free" in this verse are not the same word. A definition for the first Greek "free" includes, *set at liberty: from the dominion of sin*. The second Greek "free" includes *free, exempt, unrestrained, not bound by an obligation*. Seems like we could not earn forgiveness and we are not expected to stop sinning on our own power. We are to love God enough to follow the Holy Spirit and allow Him to clean us up and develop the mind of Christ in us. That means *man's laws of coverage and shame*, are another "gospel" which the Galatians were told was a false gospel. Clothing is not the way to biblical purity.

Now we will consider: *We should know that "such laws are of no value against fleshly indulgence"*. The verse in Colossians is how the Apostle Paul would say about the same thing. This paragraph comes after talking about the first clothing made by Adam and Eve so let's apply the statement and verse to clothing as an example of its application.

Satan and the fall are like some web sites where you buy one product and they offer you a great deal on another product they are selling. If you reject that product, they have another to offer. This goes on till you leave the site. You might even get emails from them with offers for weeks. After the forbidden fruit, Satan sold the fear of God, then the need to cover the body or at least parts of it to pacify God a little and who knows what else. The first clothing was not to cover shameful bodies or body parts. Adam and Eve were married and there was no one else on the face of the Earth to be "offended" by their nakedness.

What God made for Adam and Eve is not represented by the words used in the original writings or the translations. Aaron thinks a leather garment to protect them from thorns, but that would be too hot for work in a tropical climate. Adam was a smart man. He could solve the thorn problem without supernaturally made garments.

Using clothing to become biblically pure is like Cain offering fruits and vegetables instead of the animals that God wanted offered. God has a way to do things and He expects it done that way. God does not give any instructions about the use of clothing. It was not a big issue until modern times. He did say that His creation was very good with two naked people in it. He still brings babies into the world naked. We are still made in his image and He is probably glad to see it on display instead of covered. How can we claim to be biblically pure and imply that God's image needs covered because it is shameful?

Our problem with nakedness was not even possible until clothing could be made more affordable than it was in Bible times. For example, if the tax rate was 80% of your income and you could barely live on 50% of your income, you would not pay your taxes and starve. When clothing is very expensive, you go naked as much as possible to save the clothing no matter what the rules are about shame. It is a choice of that or wearing rags all of the time. When Jesus taught that if you have two sets of clothing to sell one and buy a sword it also showed just how valuable clothing was. First off, Jesus said “if” you have two sets so, the implication is that most did not. Second, if you could sell a set of clothes and buy a military weapon with it then we can safely conclude that clothing was valuable. That meant that if you were about to do a dirty job that you took the one set of clothes you did have off to preserve it.

The bottom line is this, fixing the heart condition of lust, temptation and the flesh is not solved by fear of repercussion and covering the image of God in our bodies. We have an article coming up in a couple of weeks from Paul’s teachings in Romans that we think will also shed a light on heart condition vs the law and we are pretty sure that you’ll enjoy that article as well.