

2.15.21 – Let's Keep it Simple

We have written a lot of articles that go deep into the meanings and how the Greek and Hebrew words are used. We thought it might be good to give the arguments as simply as possible that God favors family friendly nakedness according to the scriptures. This may be review if you follow us closely, but repetition does aid learning.

We will start with Genesis where the clothing vs. nakedness discussion begins in scripture. God created Adam and Eve without clothing, and He did not provide any clothing until after the eating of the forbidden fruit. Nakedness did not seem to be a problem before the fall for Adam and Eve. God declared His creation "very good" with the first humans naked. We need to be as careful about what is not said in these chapters as what is said. It does not say that Adam and Eve became ugly as a result of eating the fruit. There is no verse that has Eve telling Adam, "You sure look gross since you ate that fruit. If it gets much worse, I will not be able to tell the difference between you and George the gorilla." The point we are trying to make is that the body did not change because of eating the fruit. They were still made in God's image and it would seem that God still wanted His image on display as much as possible. If He wanted it hidden, He would have covered humans with fur. As you probably know, humans still come into this world naked after God forms them in the womb. There was also no command at this point to clothe from this moment on. God later went on to make a list of 10 major commandments then hundreds of commandments that relate to every day life...what to eat, what not to eat, how to treat illness, etc. if it were important in God's eyes to cover the naked body somewhere between the fall and the hundreds of commandments God would have said so.

Skipping over the verse that says they were afraid because they were naked, we come to the most important verse in the supposed "proof" that the textile use to say that God wanted us covered at all times. **Gen 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.** Yes, it says God made coats for them, but what they covered and when they needed to be used is not included in the verse. We believe that God made the coats knowing that the post sin earth would grow thorns and thistles and that protection from the environment would soon be necessary. You see, just because they had coats, does not mean that they wore them all the time, our guess is that they only wore them when necessary. I have coats that I seldom wear, and my wife has her wedding dress which she hasn't worn for over 50 years. We just do not know enough about

these "coats" to justify God wanting us to be covered at all time. We are guessing that Adam and Eve spent a lot of time after the fall naked and unashamed. Adam did not say he was ashamed because he was naked, he said he was afraid which is a common emotion when we are disobedient. Why is it safe to say that Adam and Eve spent time after leaving Eden naked and not ashamed? Due to the sheer amount of other people in the Bible who were naked after Adam and Eve proving the commonplace of everyday nonsexual nudity...examples of which will follow.

We are going to skip over drunken Noah since the Hebrew word implies there was sex involved in the story which is not part of family friendly nakedness. We will also skip Leviticus 18 for the same reason and go to 1 Samuel 19. Here we have God stopping King Saul from murdering David by causing Saul to strip off his clothing and join the prophets naked. If God is opposed to nakedness, then He just caused King Saul to sin. We know that God does not push people into sin, so He has a reason to punish them. The reaction to Saul's nakedness was to assume he was one of the prophets, which would indicate that nakedness was very common amongst the prophets.

The next story is in Isaiah 20. This one is very much like 1 Samuel 19 except, God commanded the nakedness as a sign for the Jews. Isaiah like Saul was as naked as a newborn baby since the same Hebrew word is used here for nakedness as used for a newborn baby in Job. Isaiah was not wearing his underwear and calling it nakedness. **Jas 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:** This verse blocks us from saying "God can order someone into sin if He wants to." Again, we are left claiming God has no problem with nakedness or He could not have commanded His prophets to be naked.

We need at least one story from the New Testament. **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.** Nakedness is not the important part of this story. Again, it is what is not said that is important. There is no mention of Jesus reprimanding Peter and probably the other disciples for being naked. This allows us to assume that God is okay with nakedness for dirty work like fishing.

If we trace common possessions back, we find their cost increasing and the people having the item getting smaller. For example: almost everyone who wants a car today has one. Before Henry Ford started his assembly-line and reduced the cost of a car, only the wealthy had a car. I can remember when we went to visit

someone if we wanted to watch TV. Now you can get a TV for free that still works. The telephone was the same way, we went to the neighbors to make a call. Now my wife and I carry a cell phone. Clothing is the same story, but you need to go back more than my lifetime to see a big increase in cost. In Bible times, there were no machines like we have today to make cloth. They harvested the raw materials with hand tools. They cleaned and separated the fibers from waste materials by hand. Spinning was largely hand work. The spinning wheel is a recent invention. They had a loom of some type, but there was still a lot of hand work required to make cloth. There were no sewing machines either. All this labor had to be paid for when the garment was sold, making the garment very expensive. Therefore, some people had to make a choice between clothing and food which was also expensive because it was also produced with mostly hand labor. The choice is simple if you are poor. You can live without clothing, but not without food.

We try to extend the life of expensive items as much as possible to avoid the high cost of replacing them. Even those who had clothing did not wear them to do dirty jobs like fishing or field work. God would not make nakedness a sin if some people had to choose nakedness to eat. The shame of nakedness in Bible time was the poverty that it advertised. Those who could afford to engage in dirty work wearing clothing, hired someone to do the dirty work for them. Nakedness was very common in Bible times because of the cost of making clothing.

Another indicator that nakedness was common in Bible times and that God has no commands against it is the mark that you were a descendant of Abraham. We are not sure that circumcision would be obvious if the penis was only visible when urinating. Working or bathing naked would make it much more obvious. Today, unless you see someone in a locker room or at a naturist function, you do not know if they are circumcised, making the mark meaningless because it can not be easily viewed.

Before we can say that nakedness is a sin, we need to explain away the evidence mentioned above indicating that God favors or at least has no problem with nakedness in a family friendly setting. We need evidence that the body has changed from displaying God's image to something offensive to God. We need to know why God did not give instructions with the coats on what needed to be covered and when. We need to know why Jesus did not comment or reprimand the disciples for fishing naked. We also need to explain how God would command someone into sin when James clearly says that He does not do so according to the verse above. We need to explain why God would make it a sin to choose food

instead of clothing when a person could not afford both. Then we would have to explain why circumcision was so easy to see that it was used by God as an identifying mark for His people. We have not found a way to do this and we have not found anyone else who can either. Therefore, we simply proclaim that family friendly nakedness is not a sin, but rather that God favors it.