

10.28.19 - Problems Associated with Covering

Last week we asked and answered the question of does God want us naked or does He simply allow us to be naked.

This week we'd like to look at some of the problems caused by clothing which will make it even more obvious that God wants us to be naked not just allows us to be naked.

Whenever something is covered, curiosity dictates that we want to know what is under the covering. Covering the body creates a desire to discover what is hidden. This is why my wife makes the case that a textile beach is way more sexually charged than a naturist beach due to the fact that the imagination is automatically engaged at a textile beach. The open concept showers in high school and college do a reasonable job of eliminating the curiosity and imagination for our own gender and age, but does nothing to help with members of the opposite sex. Because viewing members of the opposite sex naked is prohibited by the textile god, non-naturists basically end up with a competition to see who can find the most creative ways around the prohibition. When you add to this the erroneous idea that the textiles promote that men do "stupid things" whenever they view a woman's body naked you end up with a recipe for fornication. You see, if you can talk a person into exposing their body, you might be able to talk them into going further. You can probably guess the ending. This can ultimately lead to a person picking a mate or being forced to take a mate based on appearance only and learning too late that they can barely live together. If the curiosity and imagination to see the naked body were eliminated by the commonplace of non-sexual nudity, then suddenly the relationship begins to be built on personality, mutual interests, friendship, etc. Hopefully you can see where the commonplace of family friendly nudity here is an enormous benefit.

Another solution to the what-is-under-the-cover problem is pornography which does not promote the Christian view or treatment of the body. It presents the body as a pleasure tool which encourages looking at the body not the person. Whenever we dehumanize a group of people, we encourage abuse of that group. It may seem like a stretch that clothing leads to pornography, pornography leads to dehumanizing, dehumanizing leads to abuse, but pornography is often found in the homes of abusers. Also, the man viewing porn becomes desensitized to aggressive behaviors and begins to think that behavior is what is expected of men. Pornography is like a drug...it takes a stronger or larger dose to get the same thrill until acting out the scenes in real life is the only increased dose and some innocent woman has to pay the price for the abuser getting the higher dose. While looking for the problems caused by porn, I only found one site that suggested relaxed nudity laws as a solution to porn addiction, www.mychainsaregone.org. I believe most porn addiction starts with just a desire to see a naked body of the opposite sex and needs stronger doses from there. If the view of the naked body is commonplace then there is no need to look for it on the internet. Porn is Satan's counterfeit for God's intended way of life. Naturism defeats porn every time, because there is no substitute for the way God intended for us to be...naked and not ashamed.

Another problem created by covering the body is comparing our naked body or our mate's naked body to clothed bodies and judging how we compare. Unless you are really living the attitude expressed by a mother in our church: "Look at this body, do you think I care?" You will judge yourself and your mate wrong. (I am sure that her husband never said anything to test that statement and I don't really think she lived the attitude that she expressed.) Comparing your body with all its flaws exposed to other bodies, with their flaws covered as much as possible, will put you at a big disadvantage. For some people this leads to poor self image because of a mistaken body image.

Pride can also be expressed with clothing. It is easy to think you are better than others because you are dressed better. Expensive clothing is a way to advertise that you are wealthy. **1Ti 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;** As explained in an earlier article, this verse is not about what body parts need to be covered. It is about flaunting wealth as can be seen by the examples at the end of the verse. It is easier to think more highly of yourself because you imagine you covered all your body flaws and only notice people who were not able to or did not cover their body flaws. Pride is quick to notice where you are ahead and misses the places where you fall short.

Clothing always has a message associated with it. Look how wealthy I am, do you think I care, look at my sex appeal, I am available for sex, I hate myself, I do not like my gender, and etc. We need to be careful of the message we say with our clothing. A group of naked people do not have that problem. I cannot think of a better humble atmosphere than with a group of naked people. There is no status, wealth, style, gender confusion or attention getting clothing displayed. Just two basic styles, men's and women's style.

Clothing makes it more difficult for the body to cool itself by restricting air flow over the skin. Bras are connected to breast cancer. Some harmful bacteria can be more of a problem under clothing than on open skin. Uncovered skin supplies the body with high quality vitamin D.

Of the 6,000 to 10,000 years that man has been on the earth, only about the last 1,000 years has clothing been an issue. When clothing is very expensive, the poor do not have any clothing. It would be difficult to enforce a law against nudity if a large part of

the population could not afford clothing. There are only so many cells in the prisons, only so many places in the stocks, only so many people needed for the chain gangs, or whatever form of punishment used to force compliance. They are still naked after the punishment unless given clothing. Even then they might sell the clothing to buy food. We can only debate how God feels about clothing when clothing is cheap. Without cheap clothing we can only hope God is for nudity. It was not cheap in Bible times and there are no rules for clothing or against nakedness in the Bible. Either type of rule would be a burden to the poor. The inventions that made clothing cheap made the textile position possible. It is a little like there was no need for speed limits until inventions that made it possible for the automobile to go faster than people can get out of the way. This is probably why there are no rules about clothing in the Bible. God does not ask us to do something that we cannot do.

The long and short of it is that when it comes right down to it, a body is just a body. Even the textile Christian community has exceptions to their “can’t see a naked person” rule...for example, a doctor or nurse, a person working with the elderly or with children, etc. My question to them would be where in the Bible is the rule and second...where in the Bible are the exceptions?

Our belief is that God created our bodies to be a shining example of His image in us. He made us with waterproof skin. He designed us to absorb sunlight. Our view of ourselves and of others is improved living a naturist lifestyle. Our need for Satan’s counterfeit is greatly decreased living as God intended. We’re still having a hard time seeing the benefits of living as Satan convinced Adam & Eve to live temporarily. We believe firmly that God’s way is always the best way and we hope you do too!