

11.18.19 – Oneness with God and Satan's Objective

God's objective is best stated in Jesus' prayer in **John 17:20-22** **Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:** He wants us to be one with Him. We find this idea also in human relations in **Eph 5:31** **For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.** I know that it is not the same, but I think it has enough similarities to illustrate the idea. We are going to cast the husband as God. The husband is to be the provider for the family in the earthly realm. God provides for everyone whether they are one with Him or against Him or anywhere in between. God put the husband as the head of his family. God is ruler of the whole universe including Satan. Each of us is cast as the wife since we need to submit to God and to be one with Him. He would not be God if He submitted to us. Yes, He answers prayers with blessings, but not because we deserve the answer or have any power to force Him to answer or bless us. He does it because of His great love for us.

What happens to the oneness of the husband-wife relationship if the wife does it her way whether or not it agrees with what the husband decides is right for the family? The oneness fades rather fast. We should expect that the same thing happens when we do it our way instead of what God decides even if it is a good thing to do. For example, Joshua was praying to God after the men of Ai sent his troops home defeated. Notice what God told him: **Jos 7:10** **And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?** God wanted Joshua looking for the cause of the defeat not praying.

Satan's objective is easy to state after we know God's objective. Satan wants to break our oneness relation with God. Before the fall, Adam and Eve were in the honeymoon stage with God. Everything God commanded they did. They had very intimate fellowship with God in the garden until they followed Satan's encouragement to disobey one of the few rules God gave them. **Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?** In this verse the voice of the serpent is Satan. The Hebrew word for "subtil" is translated "crafty" in Job. Both have a negative connotation. The Hebrew word for "Yea" could be translated "indeed". Satan seems to be asking Eve, "Is this what God said?" to check if she knew the command. He changes God's command to all the trees since he knows that Eve did not get the command from God but from Adam. (We should know the commands (The Word), Satan will not quote them correctly.) After Eve gave the correction with a little legalism added, Satan questions God's goodness towards Adam and Eve; **Gen 3:4,5 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.** Here Satan accuses God of lying to Adam and does what he accused God of--lies to Eve. He is trying to tell Eve, "God is withholding desirable things from you." If she eats the forbidden fruit, she will not feel so inferior in God's presence, but more like an equal, a god, and smarter on top of that. The aprons and the hiding in the bushes should prove what happened to the oneness they had before the forbidden fruit consumption. Satan knew that if Eve ate the fruit, he would break the oneness between her and Adam and probably between her and God. He hoped that Adam would go along to get along with Eve and break the oneness between him and God.

Satan accusing Job before God could be view as an attempt to destroy Job's oneness with God. A better example would be the temptation of Jesus. **Mat 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.** This is a little like the example of Joshua above, Jesus needed food soon since it had been 40 days since He had eaten anything. We can be reasonably sure that this is not what God was planning for the end of His fast. Making the stones into bread against God's plan would put a crack in the oneness between Him and the Father. He did not need to prove He was the Son of God to Satan...they both knew that He was the Son of God. Perhaps Satan was appealing to the human side of Jesus.

Mat 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. This is forcing God to protect Him unnecessarily. It is not in God's will for anyone to show-off like this. Jesus did not need to do something like this to prove who He was. It would be like the answer Abraham gave the rich man in hell, if they will not believe the prophets, they will not believe one from the dead. Even if He did what Satan suggested, they would be able to explain it without acknowledging Him as the Son of God. Jesus could not be one with the Father and do His own thing or follow a suggestion from God's enemy which would be serving two masters.

Mat 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. This would end oneness instantly and Jesus saw through all the other plans of Satan, so why did Satan try it? He may have been expecting it to appeal to the human side of Jesus. He may have had only two good plans and hoped he would not need to use this one. It is still an attempt to break the oneness of Jesus and the Father by disobeying the first commandment.

Back in the Garden of Eden, Satan knew he destroyed the oneness of Adam and God as soon as Adam ate the forbidden fruit. So, he went to work on his second goal, covering the image of God in man. Aprons do not seem like enough, but maybe Satan did not think he would get much more at this time. Satan will take as little as he can get, but you can be sure he will try for more later. Maybe he only wanted something at this point to tell God he succeeded. It may also be a counterfeit way of patching things up with God. Maybe Adam ask Satan how to deal with God since he knew that he broke one of God's commands. We can be reasonably sure that Satan wanted the image of God in Adam and Eve covered.

It did not take long for Adam to learn how God felt about his disobedience and attempt to make things right. He did not have much belief that God would be satisfied with the aprons, so he hid also. This fear of God seems to be part of the human condition from here till humans were exposed to Jesus in the New Testament. They could avoid the fear by saying that He was not the Son of God. God did not expect Adam to follow His commands 90% of the time, not even 99.9% of the time, but 100% of the time. One violation and 100% is beyond reach. No hope for Adam or any of us without a savior.

In case you think the New Testament made it easier than what God expected of Adam, you missed a few verses: **Mat 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.** The heart would include thinking. Not just 100% pure actions, but 100% pure thoughts. **Mat 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.** If thinking applies to this command it probably applies to all the commands. Can you see the increase in expectations or do you want more verses?

God expected the fall and Jesus agreed to the cross before man was created. Eve is promised that her gender would give birth to one who would destroy Satan. Man now has a choice; he can try to live up to God's standard with his own power or depend on God's plan of salvation. Man's pride wants to take credit for being able to do it himself. Satan is willing to help man keep his pride and not seem to ask for anything in return. God does not want to share credit for his help with anyone--no room for pride. Man also wants to be right with God and Satan seems to be willing to help with that goal as long as the man does not depend on God for anything. Man and Satan have a plan for everything needed to be right with God depending on man and not God. This is the wife in the third paragraph above doing whatever she wants, but trying to make it seem like she is submissive. It does not lead to God.

We will work with the verse above from **Mat 5:28**. If looking causes lust, then we need to cover the woman so that men cannot look on her and lust. Judging from Aaron Frost's book, Satan does not care what or how much you cover...it could be a single toe for that matter, just tell the men they will lust if they see that part of a woman or they may not know why it is covered. God should be pleased that men are not lusting when they look at a woman. Man should be happy that he is able to follow God's command about lusting. Women should be happy because they can hide some areas where they may be a little below average in beauty. If they are not getting enough attention, they can shrink the boundaries on the areas that need covered and be ahead of other women on attention. If you look close enough you will see Satan's plan to hide the image of God in men and women. We cannot cover one gender without covering the other. Equality you know is required when pleasing God.

This is an example of man's righteousness. **Rom 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.** I am rather certain that the willingly ignorant fit this verse also. "What is God's plan?" you ask. He expected man to ask the Holy Spirit to *help* him renew his mind to stop lusting regardless of what the woman is or is not wearing. God expected the man to see lots of naked women which dulls the attraction of the naked body. The attractive features of the woman is God's way to motivate man to find a woman he could spend the rest of his life with and fulfill God's command to be fruitful and multiply.

Satan's plan seems to be a little like clothing styles. When you finally have the latest style, the style changes and you are out of style. You expect everyone to ask the men's neck tie question; "Don't you like the ones they are wearing this year?" When you have done what Satan suggests to solve your problem, he comes up with another list of things you need to do or changes what is needed. When you start to see that Satan's plan is not working, he suggests another which might be very much like the one before the suggestion you are trying now. As cloth became cheaper to make, clothing requirements to be "right with God" included more and more garments. Now that clothing is much less expensive and most of the body is covered all the time, the trend is to expose as much skin as society will tolerate. It is the unusual that gets attention. If everyone is fully clothed, to get attention you need to be closer to naked. Becoming more naked is closer to God's will, but doing it to get attention is not.

Satan seems willing to help man get what man wants as long as it can be done without God. If man wants to be right with God Satan suggests more clothing or more good works or more self-denial, or more church services, or another church. If man is curious about what is under all those garments the women are wearing, Satan provides pornography. If a man wants to relieve stress or guilt or boredom, Satan provides drugs and alcohol. If a man is having trouble getting along with his wife,

Satan provides easy access to some woman who will meet his needs. If a man wants more money, Satan will show him how to cheat people, or "borrow" a little from work or keep the money owed in taxes or steal and not get caught. Satan will even make the man think he really has life under the man's control while doing any of the things in the lists and many things not mentioned. None of these activities will bring the man closer to God. Most of them will separate him from God. They will not seem to come from Satan either but from his mind or from others who are not close to God.

Since Satan wants to separate us from oneness with God, he will offer counterfeit solutions to our wants and problems as illustrated above. He has at least two approaches to nakedness. First, he wants to cover up the image of God. If that does not work, then he presents the image of God in as negative a way as possible to justify covering it. In Satan's world, instead of the woman being a beautiful creation of God she is the cause of man committing fornication or adultery.

On a related topic, instead of the intimacy between a man and a woman in marriage being a physical expression of the spiritual oneness between them. Satan wants it to be available to any consenting adults. There can be no oneness in that between the humans or between the humans and God.

Satan does not want you in gross sins. The gross sins will let people know what they are risking by not being one with God. Satan wants you to do it your way without God but keep the price a secret till it is too late to avoid the costs. Sins that cause God to punish in this life will alert others to the danger and make it harder to convince people it is safe to follow their hearts instead of God.

So, how does all of this relate to biblical naturism? Easy, man's way of dealing with lust was to take the seemingly easy way out and blame the lust problem on the woman and tell her there wouldn't be a problem if she'd just keep herself covered up. Men have been blaming women for their problems since Adam chose to disobey God's first command. God's way of dealing with the problem was and is to have man deal with his heart condition. God's plan was to display His image through our bodies from the very beginning and nowhere in scripture can you find where He has changed His plan. In fact, we have shown repeatedly in Scripture both His plan and the commonplace of nakedness. It also strikes us as funny that when man lives under God's plan the problem with the heart condition of lust is greatly reduced or eliminated by the commonplace of nakedness...it's almost like God might have known what He was doing in the first place.

Our role then is to simply live God's plan and enjoy the results of doing it His way...not only in the area of biblical naturism, but in every area of our lives!