

9.1.19 - Control

Here is another question we received from one of our readers: "We shouldn't change our behavior because of some badly-behaved people, right?" The simple answer to this question is, "That is right." and use **1Ki 22:13,14** **And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good. And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.** as an example. There are many others like the three Hebrew children, or Daniel and the lions, prophets confronting kings, Peter and John preaching after threaten by the council, Paul returning to the city after being left for dead because of stoning, to mention a few. The question is more complicated then that. We need to know what behavior we are talking about.and the situation. There are reactions that are dependent on the situation. **Rom 14:13** **Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.** may apply to our reactions. Let's see if we can tell when to apply each approach.

It is clear that a direct command like, **Exo 20:3** **Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Exo 20:12-16** **Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.** fits the simple answer. To not follow commands like these would be a stumbling block. "I thought Christians believed..." The behavior we are most concerned about does not have such a command. There is no "Thou shall be naked whenever the body does not need protection from harm that can be provided by clothing." Now what?

Without a command we use principles and examples for direction for our behaviors. That opens a debate on whether or not the Bible supports what we claim. What we say the Bible supports is influenced by our Bible training. If you grew up in a Roman Catholic Church you will not see the list of Jesus' brothers and sisters. Before you were introduced to naturism you read **Isa 20** without asking how God could command someone into sin. If funds are low you might try to change the tithe from 10% to what you decide to give or can afford and find verses to support your position. We need to realize that we all have these beliefs that change how we see examples and principles in the Bible. Prayer before study and study that seeks what the Bible teaches on the subject instead of proving your position will overcome many false traditional beliefs... Reading or listening to other opinions often shows the blind spot in our reasoning, but it can cast doubt, where there should be none. Like, "Was Jesus really the Son of God." casts doubt on most of the New Testament.

That leaves us applying **Rom 14:13** to naturism. We are going to leave "badly behaved" out of the question for now and consider it later. Stumblingblock is simply; that which causes to error. The advice we should get from **Rom 14:13** is, "don't do anything to cause others to error". This can be easily used as a control mechanism by legalists. We are going to use some extreme examples to illustrate how this can be applied, but life will not be that clear. Real world choices are always on cases near the dividing point between it applies and it does not apply. You have a textile friend who would be very upset if he learned you went to a naturist resort. Do you forgo the naturist resort and visit a textile resort to avoid offending him? NO! Changing your plans for that reason tells your family that what other people will think should control our behavior and gives them control of your behavior instead of following God's leading. If we do not confront incorrect beliefs, then the person having them will not know they are in error. It could cause him to error if you announced where you

were and what you did. He may not be ready to grow in that area of his life. He might accept what the Bible teaches on nakedness if he learns small bits at a time, but not recover from the shock of learning so much at once. Jesus may serve as an example; He healed every day of the week not just on the Sabbath. Healing on the Sabbath, which went against the legalistic rule of the Pharisees, was not done to provoke them. He did not refrain from healing on the Sabbath to keep the Pharisees from hating Him more, which made it harder for them to see Him as the Son of God. Basically, textile believers do not control our naturism activities, but we should not share our beliefs or activities unless we think they would be receptive. It is not that we need to hide what we are doing, we lose our creditability when they learn of our naturist beliefs and activities, in many cases, which is also a stumblingblock. In their eyes we become like Lot to his sons in law: **Gen 19:14. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.** They will not take anything we say after that seriously.

We are going to assume that when the question was asked of “bad behavior” it is meant that someone is conducting bad behavior while also being involved with naturism. People who do the things the that textile people think we all do. It is true, if you are seen going into a bar, it is assumed that you are going to have an alcoholic drink and if you are seen going into a nightclub, you are going to see sensuous and seductive women. It is also true that naturism has a similar place in the mind of textile believers. Textile believers are only naked for sex...therefore their thought process is that if you are naked you must be having sex with the nearest member of the opposite sex. They have no idea that you can be naked and not do the things they have heard the “bad behavior” people do. Jesus did not change His behavior to win the Pharisees. He healed on the Sabbath, ate with tax collectors,

prostitutes, and other people they consider sinners...pointed out where they distorted the scriptures and chased them out of the temple. I did not read anywhere that claimed that Jesus went out of His way (usual lifestyle) to disturb the Pharisees. In naturism, textile believers often represent the Pharisees. There are some who never heard of family friendly naturism... The legalistic ones are not likely to change, but we are not free to disturb them as much as possible. If all of us stay away from naturist activities, only the “bad behavior” people will be representing the activities, which is not likely to change the image of such activities. It is a little like all the good people staying out of government because it is crooked and being amazed that it got worse or like the public schools that Christians abandoned and then are shocked that the schools are falling apart. What did we expect would happen? That they would straighten things out so we would come back and work with them! They are glad when we are not hindering them from becoming more crooked. Likewise, if we do not participate in biblical naturist activities and do not inform the receptive people of the benefits of and Bible agreement with such activities, the reputation of naturism will only get worse.

In conclusion, there are “bad people” who do “bad things” in every profession and a part of every lifestyle. That should not stop anyone from doing what is biblically correct. Just because there are bad sales people does not mean that you should not become a sales professional. There are bad lawyers, that does not mean that you should not become an attorney. There are bad doctors, that does not mean that you should not become a physician. There are bad cops and bad dentists, bad teachers and there are even bad pastors, that does not mean that you should not become a police officer, dentist, teacher or pastor. There are bad people who do bad things in sports, but that does not mean that you stop attending sporting events. There are bad people who do bad things at Walmart, but that does not mean that you stop shopping at Walmart. And yes, there are some in the naturist community who are not obedient to

scripture in some areas of their lives...that does not mean that you should not be a naturist. We have shown in the pages of this website and the articles we've written and the books and other websites that we've recommended that we have 100% certainty of the fact that the naturist lifestyle was God's intended plan from the beginning and His preferred method even now. Just because some people engage in "bad behavior" should not stop us from enjoying life as God intended...naked and not ashamed, displaying the image of our maker.