

Shame Culture...What's Really Behind It?

My father has a saying..."before we can negotiate, we must define terms."

In other words, we need to agree on some foundational principles or we might not be agreeing on the same things.

So, the first question that must be answered is what kind of "shame" are we talking about. In this context, we are referring to the "shame" that most religious today would place on the naked body.

I heard a mother recently say to their 2 year old son when reading him a book with a picture in it..."oh my, he needs to get his clothes on, he's in his underwear." She said it without thought and then as soon as she said it she backpedaled a little as she lets her son run around in his undies or less all the time. But it's something that is so prevalent in today's society that it just IS anymore. She knew what I was going to ask before I even had a chance, but I asked anyway...I responded "why?" Why does he need any clothes on at all? She said, well he doesn't, it just slipped out. I replied, it's teaching him that the body God gave him is inherently dirty...do you believe that? To which she replied "no."

But, there it is...most of society today and especially the Christian culture is teaching that the body is shameful and dirty and in need of covering. Almost always they are not thinking about what they're teaching, they are simply repeating a mantra that they've been taught by the parents for generations...that mantra is "you put your clothes on."

The question I have is...what does it really mean and ultimately, what's behind it?

What it really means is that inadvertently we teach that God made a mistake, that God made something bad, that God should be ashamed to have put those things on there. Most people are reasonable and if given the chance to give honest answers they'd be aghast at their own subliminal teaching, but most people are never given the chance. The subject is such a "dangerous" one that there is almost always a

knee jerk reaction rather than a reasoned one. So, the bad doctrine is perpetuated rather than corrected. It also means that we begin to teach little minds that sex is dirty and bad and shameful and even most Christians would admit to not believing that either, but again unthinkingly that is what is taught with the knee jerk reaction about basic nudity.

So, here we have God creating humans naked and not ashamed...doing so on purpose to display His highest creation...the very creation made in His own image and the Christians being the majority group teaching that the naked body is dirty and shameful and wrong. Then we have the God given the command for Adam and Eve to procreate and fill the Earth with offspring...meaning that God ordained sex as good, proper and blessed of Him as His means of making even more image bearers all around the globe...and the Christians being the majority group teaching that sex is dirty and shameful and wrong.

We have literally gone so far down this satanic rabbit hole regarding the doctrine of the body that we are now proclaiming Satan's lie as God's truth. You may ask how do you know that it is Satan's lie...because God was the one to ask Adam & Eve "who told thee" in Genesis 3:11. It wasn't God who told them to cover, it wasn't God who convinced them that nakedness was wrong...it was the great deceiver and what does he do, he deceives...he lies!

Now the next question is what's really behind it.

If we know that God intended for humans to live naked and not ashamed, which we do since we know that's how He wanted us to be or He wouldn't have made us that way. If we know that it was Satan who lied to them and convinced them to cover up and we do know that, based on God's question to Adam and Eve, then we can begin to ask ourselves why might Satan have done that?

I have a few possibilities that I'd like to present and let you decide for yourself if they aren't at the very least plausible.

1. Satan convinced Adam and Eve to cover the image of God because he hates God and therefore hates anything that bears His image.

2. Satan convinced Adam and Eve that their reproductive organs specifically were dirty and evil and shameful to create a bad view of procreation and therefore limit the activity that would make more image bearers or at the very least attach guilt to something that God ordained.
3. Satan knew that by convincing mankind to cover the naked body he could create multiple bad results such as a naked only for sex mindset, a mindset that made sexual objects out of people rather than a brother or sister in Christ, poor body image and poor self-image, a legalistic and pharisaical system of rules and a judgmental attitude rather than a godly view of grace and restoration, etc.
4. Many more possibilities abound, but this was enough to get my mind racing...

You see, the bottom line is that God called the naked body very good, He then went on to say in the New Testament that there aren't any "less comely" parts.

God didn't hide or cover the reproductive parts as He considers the whole body to be beautiful...one might say that the body is "wonderfully made" even as God did in Psalm 139:14.

If you have any other mindset on the subject, then you just might be in direct opposition with God's view and may even have a mindset similar to Satan himself.

Just a few things to think about....