

Cover Your Body

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the Bible plan for clothing our bodies - covering our nakedness.
2. Rev. 3:18 "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."
 - a. Clothed - Positive - be covered
 - b. Shame of thy nakedness do not appear - NEGATIVE - not exposed
 - c. Figurative language talking to church at Laodicea about the spiritual condition - but it is drawn from the normal understanding of the body and clothing and nakedness which everyone could understand.
 - d. The symbolism of these passages does not negate the basic truth which underlies it.
3. We live in a time when people do not desire to cover their bodies when they are in public. We must learn what the Bible teaches about this subject and obey God and His word!!!
4. Let us notice what God requires of us in clothing our bodies and how we are to cover the shame of our nakedness.

Discussion

I. HISTORY OF CLOTHING OUR BODIES

- A. The Bible teaches that we were naked at one time.
 1. Job 1:21 "...Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither:..."
 2. Gen. 2:25 "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."

- B. But the Bible also teaches that clothing is required after the sin of Adam and Eve.
1. Gen. 2:25
 2. Gen. 3 tells about the sin
 3. Gen. 3:7 "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."
 - a. When sin came nakedness meant something different
 - b. They were ashamed of their nakedness, so they made themselves some aprons of fig leaves - no one else was on earth at the time
 4. But in Gen. 3:21 we read that God made them "...coats of skins, and clothed them."
- C. Ever since the Garden of Eden God has required that mankind wear clothing. The exhibition of one's body or nakedness, except in the intimacy of marriage, is associated with shame and sin. Man has a natural sense of shame about his nakedness and clothes himself.

II. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NUDITY AND NAKEDNESS

- A. You can be naked and still have on some clothing
1. We define the word nude as being undressed, no clothing.
 2. But you can have on some clothing and still be considered naked!
- B. Notice the example in the Garden of Eden
1. In Gen. 3:7 Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."
 2. When God came to talk with them they were hiding. "...God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?" Gen.3:9

3. In Gen.3:10 we read "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."
4. He had on the aprons made of fig leaves, but said that he was naked.
5. In V. 21 God made them coats of skins and clothed them.
6. This illustrates that we do not have to be completely nude in order to be considered naked, or have our nakedness showing.

C. How much of our "nakedness" should be covered in public?

1. Rev. 3:17,18 "...that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear..."
2. The Shame of thy nakedness - certain parts of our body are to be covered in public places
3. Appear - be seen in public by others
4. Word Appear - means to arise, emerge, opposite Disappear
5. We are to cover the shame of our nakedness.

D. An apron was not enough for Adam and Eve

1. Adam had covered the bare essentials and still needed to be properly clothed.
2. The aprons -
 - a. Hebrew word that means loin cloths or hip clothing.
 - b. But Adam said he was still naked - Gen. 3:10
 - c. God agreed - Gen.3:11 "Who told thee, thou wast naked?"
 - d. The apron that he had made of fig leaves did not cover the shame of his nakedness

E. **God clothed them - Gen. 3:21** "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

1. He made them coats of skins - of animals
2. This garment is defined by a Hebrew word that is the word "Kottoneth" -- translated by the word clothed
3. This word describes a shirt like garment that covered from their shoulders to the knee.
4. This was God's definition of being clothed.
5. They were naked - God clothed them - Covered them from their shoulders to their knees.

F. Examples in the Bible of when the Thigh is showing they were considered naked

1. Ex. 28:42 "And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach:"
 - a. When the priest ascended the platform those on the first few rows could look under their robes.
 - b. God said, you cover your nakedness - you make sure your thigh is covered that your nakedness is covered.
 - c. Thigh = from the knee to the hip
 - d. Loins unto the thighs = nakedness

2. Isa 47:1-3 "Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. 2. Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. 3. Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man."

- a. Prophecy against Babylonian daughters who after their punishment would flee the land and they would cross over the rivers.
- b. When they crossed over the river they lift up their dresses.
- c. When they lift up their dresses their thighs were shown and their nakedness was shown.
- d. Make bare the leg -- uncover the thigh -- thy nakedness is uncovered - thy shame shall be seen.

G. Luke 8:26-36

1. People in their right mind will cover the shame of their nakedness
2. V. 27 - did not wear clothes
3. This man was possessed with demons and while in that condition he wore no clothes.

Luke 8:35 "Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, **clothed, and in his right mind:** and they were afraid."

4. When unclothed he was not in his right mind, but when sanity was restored he was found clothed or dressed
5. B.B.E. "Clothed and with full use of his senses."

III. HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD DRESS

- A. Wear Clothing that pleases God = covers our nakedness
 - 1. Hos. 2:6-9 v. 9 "...wool and flax given to cover her nakedness."
 - 2. God gave wool and flax to cover her nakedness (Hosea's wife)
 - 3. Cover = conceal - to be placed out of sight
 - 4. It is God's will that people wear clothes to cover their nakedness
- B. Wear Clothing that is modest - 1 Tim. 2:9 "Modest Apparel"
 - 1. Decent, orderly -- if one is naked and in public view one is not modest.
 - 2. Modest apparel is not:
 - a. Too short -- Too tight
 - b. Too thin -- Too low
 - 3. Modest apparel is dressing with shamefacedness - bashfulness
 - 4. Sobriety = soundness of mind, self control
 - 5. Weymoth's translation of 1 Tim. 2:9
 - 6. Paul said "Abstain from every appearance of evil." I Ths.5:21
 - 7. Rather than trying to see how close to immodesty you can get, see how close to modesty you can get.
- C. We should not dress like the people of the world:
 - 1. They wear clothing that exposes their nakedness or emphasizes their body in a way that is wrong
 - 2. We are different - we are the children of God - we are to be separate from the world in our morals and in our dress
 - 3. Rom. 12:1-2 "Be not conformed to this world" --- be made in the same fashion as the world - do not dress like them - nakedness

D. Clothing reveals our character

1. Gen. 38:15 - Tamar was judged to be a harlot because she was wearing the clothing of a harlot
2. Pro. 7:10- Solomon spoke of a woman who was clad with the "attire of an harlot"
3. These people had on some clothing - they were not completely nude.
4. But the way or manner of their clothing indicated something about their character -- their nakedness was showing or being displayed in such a way that they were known to be harlots.

E. Christians dress in a different way

1. We clothe and cover the nakedness of our bodies when we are in public
2. We wear clothing that indicates something about our character.
3. We dress to please God - not the latest fashion of the world.

CONCLUSION

1. What is the standard for our clothing?
 - a. The Bible is our guidebook for all things - including dress!!
 - b. We must follow God's principles about clothing our bodies or covering our nakedness.
2. Remember:
 - a. God clothed Adam and Eve - that word means to be covered from the shoulders to the knees.
 - b. Rev. 3:18 teaches that the shame of our nakedness should be covered
 - c. You do not have to be completely nude in order to be considered naked.

3. Rev. 16:15 "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."
4. 2 Cor. 5:3 "If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked."
5. Zeph.1:8 "And it shall come to pass in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel."
6. If you knew when the day of the Return of the Lord would take place, what would you be wearing?
7. If I could send pictures to heaven would I pose in this garment, then send the picture to Christ?
8. Cover Your Body

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning - Feb. 26, 2006
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com