



Feb. 4, 2007 (Vol. 6)

## They Knew They Were Naked

edited

Genesis 3:7 "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"

When Adam & Eve committed sin, they became aware of things from a perspective they had not previously had. It is clear that nakedness is here described as wearing no cloths. But what may not be as obvious is just what Adam & Eve lost on this occasion. They lost their spiritual life with God (Gen. 2:17). They lost their innocence (Gen. 3:7). They lost the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:23). Other things can be mentioned as well.

Do you think that a moment's indiscretion was worth the price they paid? Would not Adam & Eve look back, as years passed by, and remember what they had lost? What they should have done differently? Surely they did.

And what can we learn from Adam & Eve? We can see that the delight & allure of sin is but for a moment - and the regrets and consequences far more serious and long lasting than we care to think about. We can also see that Adam & Eve's attempt to compensate for their failure was insufficient. For while they now had on fig leaf aprons, they still knew they were not covered appropriately...

Genesis 3:8-11 "And they heard the voice of Jehovah God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and **the man and his wife hid themselves** from the presence of Jehovah God amongst the trees of the garden. And Jehovah God called unto the man, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, **because I was naked; and I hid myself**. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked?"

Adam and Eve now experienced shame and regret for their actions. They attempted to hide themselves because they knew they were not sufficiently clothed. While we cannot truly hide from

God, there is yet a lesson in this for us. Do we have a sense of shame when we are insufficiently dressed? Remember, Adam & Eve had some clothing on, but they still knew they were "naked".

Today it seems all the fashion to undress. Boys (I shall not call them "men" while they act this way) wear baggy jeans that hang halfway down their back side. They could use a belt... not just for their belt loop. Girls wear pants so tight, it is a wonder they can get into them. Shirts are so short that the mid-drift is revealed while standing, not to mention what happens when a person bends over. And, as Adam & Eve knew they were "naked" when they did not have their chest area covered, why do people today think it a glorious thing to reveal as much of their chest as is socially permissible? Could it be that people have not taken thought for what God says about these things? Could it be, that like Eve, we become so focused on the pleasant appearance and appeal of the forbidden fruit - that we forget what the consequences are?

We need always to remember what God's word says. And, we need to educate one another in these matters. If you see a Christian who has fallen short in this, you have an obligation to help them get back up (Gal. 6:1-2). If you care, if you love their soul, if you want them to avoid the dangers & consequences to sin - help them to see the right way to go. Here are a few additional scriptures which address this issue:

Showing the rear-end is "nakedness" (Is. 20:4). Since this is the case, is it appropriate to show it partially? Or to wear tight & form fitting clothing?

Showing the waist & thighs is "nakedness" (Ex. 28:42). The OT priests wore linen breeches under their robes which covered from their loins to the thighs. In other words, their hips to their knees were covered so that they would not even accidentally expose this part of themselves. Do we take this much forethought in being modest & godly in our attire?

Exposing the breast is "nakedness" (Ezk. 16:7). Here Jerusalem is pictured as a girl who matures physically, but is naked. Her nakedness is covered by God clothing her (Ezk. 16:8, 10). Thus, showing the breast or part of it (top, side, cleavage) is being naked. Also, would it be right before God to wear a form fitting shirt? No. Christians should not be dressing like this.

Ge 3:21 "And Jehovah God made for Adam and for his wife coats of skins, and clothed them." Wilson's OT Word Studies says of "coats" in Gen. 3:21, "Generally with sleeves, to the knees, but seldom to the ankles". In other words, it covered at least the shoulders to the knees. Sometimes it covered more, but we can at least see that the upper body, the mid-drift, the loins & rear

and thighs, down to the knees would be covered - as noted in previous passages.

One more point should be considered before moving on. The word "shamefastness" in 1 Tim. 2:9. This word is noted as meaning an inward aversion to anything unseemly, a shrinking back from that which is inappropriate. Thus, what should a God-fearing man or woman do concerning the boundary lines noted above? Should we see how close we can get to them? Should we argue vehemently in favor of "my shorts touch my knee cap", etc.? Or should our inclination as Christians be to shrink back from the boundary line - stay away from it? If we hold fast a sense of shame, then we will indeed shy away from being provocative, sensual and alluring with our clothing.

Having considered some of the specific principles about nakedness, let us consider some of the blessings of obedience & consequences of disobedience. If one dresses in a way that is sinful, how will others view them? Would we want deacons who mowed the lawn without their shirts on? Would we want Elders wore shorts? If you had a daughter, would you want her to date a boy who decided to cloth himself so that his pants barely hung on him? Or if you have a son, would you want him to date a girl who displayed her wares in a provocative way?

It is easy, especially when we are younger, to dress and act like the world around us. We want to fit in, be accepted, and get along. But this does not mean we have to commit sin to do this. Nor will this attract the spiritually minded kind of person who will treat you with respect and help you get to heaven. It is understandable that young people take an interest in others. But so many choices today are not only sinful in themselves, but lead to further sins. Even young people can have their consciences made callous to what is right. As we become accustomed to doing things like the world, what we would "never" do today, becomes something that looks awfully fun tomorrow.

Like Adam & Eve, it is easy to lose our innocence and our soul. But some things cannot be regained once they are lost. Adam & Even never went back to the Garden of Eden. Let us learn from them. Let us make decisions that are wise. Let us adorn ourselves in a godly & righteous way. One that first pleases God, and one that will also present us as people who are dedicated to Him. And when we live this way, we will avoid the shame & regret that sinful conduct produces.

So, what does our attire say about us - spiritually?

#### **PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR**

**Othena Kinnard, Mag Bumbalough, Thelma Cunningham, Mary Cox, Monie Petty, Dave Poteet, Joshua & Misty Poteet, Rose Taylor, Dorris Williams, Betty & Robert England, Johanna Fletcher, Ed Williams, Joe Smith, Lydia Poe, Mike Tenpenny, Thelma Klein, Nathan Hill, DeLeesa Price (expecting) and Alisa Fletcher (expecting). Also, Reba Jones (Dorris Williams' niece), Jackie Tindle (cancer, relative of the Sims), John Ross Key (Mary Cox's son), Marci Miller (Alisa Fletcher's mother), Ocia Bell Jones (Doris William's mother), Ruth Williams (Betty England's niece), Pauline Hickey, Nanny Witaker, Dylan Roberts (grandson of Marilyn's friend); Kitty Mahan (Kathy Tenpenny's mother), Dwayne Williams (Dorris William's son), Jeff England (Robert & Betty's son), Paul Grissom, Carl Williams (Ed's brother), Clair Gentry (Doris' sister-in-law).**

#### **THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- **Home Bible Study** - Sat., Feb. 17.
- **Business Meeting** - Sun. Feb. 25.
- **Ladies Class** - 2nd & Last Sunday Each Month.
- **GM** - Jeff Smith, April 15-20, 2007.
- **GM** - R. McPherson, Oct.14-19, 2007.
- **GM** - Brian Yeager, April 13-18, 2008.
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

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