

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXIV

September 14, 2014

No. 37

“Am I Naked?”

(Jerry Fite)

As long as I have clothes or something on my body, how could you say I am naked? Since most people equate being naked as being nude, this is an understandable response. However, a Christian allows the thoughts of God, revealed in His Word, to dictate what he or she thinks (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:12-13). The Christian follows the revealed mind of God, not the wisdom of this world.

According to the Bible, we might be “naked” and not be nude, because we are wearing *insufficient* clothing. For example, “*If a brother or sister be naked, and in lack of daily food, and one of you say unto them, ‘Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled; and yet ye give them not the things needful to the body; what doth it profit?’*” (James 2:16). Here James addresses those who see people naked in their presence, maybe in the synagogue.

Were they walking around completely nude? No. They lacked *sufficient* clothing to be warm, just as they lacked sufficient food to be full. The point of the passage is to not merely wish the naked well and send them on their way, but instead, provide the

naked sufficient clothing to keep warm and sufficient food to be filled for the day.

Another example of the Bible teaching us that we can be naked but not totally nude occurs in the very beginning with the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. After sewing fig leaves together to form aprons to cover their private parts, Adam and Eve were afraid when they heard the voice of God in the garden. Why? Let Adam tell you in his own words: “*I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself*” (Genesis 3:10).

Wearing a girdle of fig leaves, the first man and woman were still naked. Adam tried to hide his partially clothed, but naked body from God being driven by his newly acquired sense of shame.

What part of the leg should then be covered to avoid the state of nakedness? God gives us a clue in His instruction regarding the Priests. Moses provided the Priests with “*linen breeches to cover the flesh of their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach*” (Exodus 28:42). Just wearing robes would expose

their nakedness when they stood above the people, or bent over doing their work upon the altar. God instructs Moses to make breeches to cover their nakedness which reached from the loins all the way down covering their thighs.

Godly women are instructed in Christ to “*adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefastness and sobriety...which becometh women professing godliness through good works*” (1 Timothy 2:9-10). Not just any kind of clothing is ok for the girl or woman to wear, but that which is fitting for the woman who is professing godliness in her life of good works.

It must also be clothing that reflects a “shamefast” and “sober” mind. As girls mature to be attractive young women, they must dress manifesting sound judgment or sobriety. Desiring to not cross the line of what is modest; the shamefast woman will make sure she is covering those parts of her body which might invite lustful thoughts from the opposite sex. Wearing short shorts or bikinis may be popular clothing, but so attired, you are still naked according to the Bible. Dress with a godly mind!