

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

July 10

2022

The Shame of Nakedness

Revelation 3:17-18 pictures a proud church like a poor, diseased man with inadequate clothes. If the church repented, Christ would supply every spiritual need, "that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear." This figurative use of inadequate clothing is based on the concept of the shame of nakedness and on the failure of some people to recognize this shame.

Nakedness may refer to nudity or to inadequate clothing. Adam and Eve were first nude but then partially clothed with "aprons" (girdle, loin-covering; Gen. 3:7). God replaced this inadequate clothing with "coats," proper and adequate garments "generally with sleeves, coming down to the knees" (v. 21; Gesenius, Hebrew & Chaldee Lexicon, 420). God replaced their shorts with garments covering from the shoulders down to the knees to cover the shame of their nakedness.

To uncover or see nakedness is a euphemism for sexual intercourse (Lev. 18:6; 20:17). Nakedness with its sexual appeal and implications is a blessing in marriage, but a curse and shame when displayed outside marriage. Therefore, in addition to outer robes, the priests wore pants reaching from the waist to the knees "breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach" (Exod. 28:42). Even heathen women knew the embarrassment of lifting their skirts to cross a river "make bare the leg, uncover the thigh. . . . Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen" (Isa. 47:2-3). Exposing the thighs reveals the shame of nakedness.

God commanded women to "adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works" (1 Tim. 2:9-10). Shamefacedness or shamefastness is an innate sense of honor which "shrinks from over passing the limits of womanly reserve and modesty, as well as from the dishonor" of such an act (Trench, Synonyms of the New Testament, pp. 63-68). It is "a sense of shame" or "modesty which is "fast" or rooted in the character" (Vine, Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, IV:17).

Modesty, shamefacedness, and sobriety deeply rooted in a woman's character cause her to shrink back from exposing the shame of her nakedness. This shame is exposed before men by her wearing skirts and shorts above the knees, miniskirts, low cut dresses and blouses (front or back), strap-less or backless dresses, swimsuits, tube or tank tops, tight or formfitting attire (leotard, bicycle shorts, etc.), and the generally abbreviated uniforms worn by majorettes, cheerleaders, and flag or drill teams. A man in shorts revealing his thighs and without a shirt exposes the shame of his nakedness to women.

The sin of exposed nakedness is fraught with dangers. It creates temptations for the opposite sex, sears the conscience, and refuses the truth of God's word (Matt. 18:6-7; Jer. 6:15; Hos. 8:12). It weakens the home by causing parents to fail in their duty to their children, or children to rebel against parental leadership (1 Sam. 3:13; Deut. 21:18-21). When Christians are guilty, they conform to the world, start down the road of apostasy, set the wrong example, and bring shame on Christ and his church (Rom. 12:2; Judg. 2:10; Matt. 5:13-16; Eph. 5:26-27). Souls will be lost over such sins (Gal. 5:19-21).

Christ can clothe us spiritually and teach us to dress properly when people in the world repent and are baptized to be forgiven through his blood, or when erring Christians repent and pray forgiveness (Acts 2:38; 8:22).

✍️ Ron Halbrook

Beware: “It’s Bare Season”

We have once again come to that time of the year that some refer to as “bare season.” You see, summertime is here, and because of that many will be baring all that they can in an attempt to cool down from the warmer temperatures, and in an attempt to keep up with the so called “latest fashion trends.”

However, we need to beware of “bare season,” and although many men will be going shirtless and wearing short shorts while mowing their lawns this summer, along with many women who will be wearing practically nothing while sunbathing in clear sight of anyone who happens to pass by, along with many others who will be wearing skimpy outfits that expose way too much flesh, we must not practice such, or approve of those who do.

You see, although the world views nakedness as being totally nude, the Scriptures, the all inspired word of God (2 Timothy 3:16) says nakedness is not only being totally nude (Genesis 3:7) i.e. the word naked here is used when Adam and Eve first realized they were totally nude, but also nakedness is referred to in the Scriptures as being partially nude (Genesis 3:10) i.e. the word naked is used here after Adam and Eve had made themselves girding coverings, and covered themselves. However, this partial covering of the body was not acceptable to God, as we go onto read and learn in Genesis 3:20, “Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin and clothed them.”

Therefore, Christians need to understand the difference between the worlds view of nakedness, and what God’s word says about nakedness. So, you see, Christians must recognize that exposing nakedness is not acceptable to God (Exodus 20:26, 28:42). They must likewise realize that nakedness can

lead to the lust of the flesh, and promote fornication (2 Samuel 11:1-5), it can cause a stumble block for some (Matthew 5:28), and we must abstain from causing a stumbling block which may cause others to fall (Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 8:9).

So, knowing that, let’s beware of “bare season” and let’s be a people who dress modestly i.e. dress in a way that is orderly, well arranged, or decent (1 Timothy 2:9-10). Let’s never become conformed to the world and its views (Romans 12:1-2). Let’s always deny ungodliness and worldly lust (Titus 2:12). Let’s strive to be one who is blameless and harmless without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (Philippians 2:15), and let’s do all that we do (including the way in which we dress) to the glory of God (Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

Now, with that said, let’s all take this subject to heart, let’s always understand the importance of modest dress, let’s teach these much needed principals to our children and grandchildren, and let’s be a people who always dress modestly, no matter what time of the year it is!

✍ Brad Phillips

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

Brad Phillips..... (765) 720-2816