

## **IS BEING NAKED A SIN?**

Cinnamon Study #304

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I recently read an [article](#) published from a popular christian website "Desiring God" that made me spit out my coffee in laughter. The article was entitled "The Rebellion of Nudity and the Meaning of Clothing." Unfortunately, what was discussed in this article is also what is discussed regarding "nakedness" in most churches. The verse that is being discussed is Genesis 3:7, which writes,

"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."

In that same article mentioned above, it is deduced that this verse means that Adam and Eve are "realizing their nakedness and becoming insecure about their bodies" as well as being faced with "a broken marriage covenant between husband and wife" and "public nudity is a rebellion against moral reality." All of these conclusions are comical, unbiblical, and a beautiful example of a train of thought completely derailed. Yet, many people accept this dogma without fact-checking it with scripture first. None of these claims are supported by scripture, and it has caused a lot of pain and trauma within congregations of churches based on shame and judgement of outward appearances, which the Bible repeatedly tells us not to do (John 7:24, 1 Sam 16:7, John 8:15). So, then, what does **nakedness** mean *in the Bible*?

Just like [my extensive study on modesty](#), scripture tells us that the dress in which a believer is supposed to wear is one that is **not tangible**. The quickest, most well know example of this I can give is written in Ephesians, where we are told to *wear the whole armor of God*.

// Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.  
Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

### ***Ephesians 6:10-18***

Unbeknownst to most people, including preachers and apparently larger christian blogs, nakedness is not only mentioned in Genesis. It is mentioned a little over 100 times in scripture, and after sifting through and examining these verses we are granted more insight onto the actual meaning of the term.

The word naked in the Hebrew Bible is the word עירום "erom" from "arom".

This word carries a serious theological weight, which we will only partly dive into. Apart from Genesis we see this word being used in *Deuteronomy 28:28*, when the national curse was "*in nakedness Israel will serve her enemies*", where Israel is personified as a she, as many cities were in antiquity.

In *Ezekiel 16:7,22, and 39* the same term was used describing Jerusalem's nakedness being exposed by her own sin. Again in *Ezekiel 23:29* the allied nations strip the faithless Jerusalem "*naked and bare*."

The bible warns us since the very first book in Genesis that being found naked in the sight of the Lord is something we must guard against. If we take this passage literally as most people do, does that mean that the solution is as simple as making sure you wear clothes at all times and then you are safe from the Lords wrath? Of course not! Even in the Genesis account, Adam and Eve try to cover their nakedness, meaning their sin, through fig leaves. Understanding the meaning behind the parable of the fig tree, and the meaning of figs in the Bible is essential to help understand the meaning of these early verses in Genesis. Their works, however, proved not to be adequate in covering their own sin and YHWH gives them garments instead. Hebrew, and the language in the bible itself is a literary masterpiece full of idioms, allegories, poems, stories and parables, all hidden with meaning. We greatly cheapen the mastery of Scripture by reducing it to westernized modern day literal constructs.

// All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

**Matthew 13:34-35**

*Naked*, although not meant literal in the Bible, still does have a negative connotation but it certainly doesn't mean to be ashamed of your anatomy. When you are naked, you have no cover. Who is our cover? Jesus. The Bible repeatedly talks about a "covering." Jesus uses stories, poems, parallels, and idioms to describe all types of ways He covers us with His love, mercy, and grace. Jesus covers us with His blood, with His word, with Living Water, and with the Bread of Life, thus giving us *white robes of righteousness*. To be naked is to be in a state of sin, found without a covering.

We can examine some verses that show that nakedness is a state of being in ***sin, evil, false doctrine, uncovered by God:***

**//** And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)"

**Exodus 32:25**

**//** For the Lord brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he made Judah naked, and transgressed sore against the Lord"

**2 Chronicles 28:19**

**//** Thus saith the Lord God; Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness discovered through thy whoredoms with thy lovers, and with all the idols of thy abominations, and by the blood of thy children, which thou didst give unto them;"

**Ezekiel 16:36**

**//** Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

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.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

**Revelation 3:17-19**

Naked also signifies weakness, disarmed, void of resources - essentially living without Gods strengths, blessings and grace. Observe:

**//** But I have made Esau bare, I have uncovered his secret places, and he shall not be able to hide himself: his seed is spoiled, and his brethren, and his neighbours, and he is not"

**Jeremiah 49:10**

Job gives us great insight into the meaning behind nakedness in the Genesis account:

// If I covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom"

**Job 31:33**

Remember, Adam and Eve tried to conceal, aka cover, their flesh, their sin, but only God can give us the proper covering (our works do not save us), as written in John:

// If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin"

**John 15:22**

// Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame"

**Revelation 16:15**

We are told we are to **put on** Christ, as our garment.

// But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof"

**Romans 13:14**

The spiritual man, or the inner man of the heart, is what is judged by the Lord. Therefore, the heart cannot wear clothes, nor can it be physically naked, so in Scripture it uses idiomatic language so we can better understand these topics.

**"But** the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

**1 Samuel 16:7**

God deals with our heart and He covers us with His blood. **He covers us.** Our works do not. Our profession of faith does not. Nothing we can do covers us,

only God alone can cover us. The term *naked* in the Genesis account has been **severely** weaponized in marriages, doctrine, and sex. So much false doctrine has stemmed from the *commandments of men*, and opinions of others, rather than looking to the Word for truth and answers.

// You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. **He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments**, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."

**Revelation 3:4-5**

// I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love,, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent."

**Revelation 3:18-19**

// Let your garments always be white,  
And let your head lack no oil."

**Ecclesiastes 9:8**

// He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

**Revelation 19:13-15**