Pam is out of state visiting family, George brought us the message today. God bless them both on this day the Lord has made.

We Are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made in His Image to be the Temple of the Holy Spirit!

All of the previous five magnificent days of creation, God said that they were, "Good." But at the end of the sixth day, after God had created us in His own image and likeness, He declared, "It was very good!" Very good! He lovingly created us in His own image! That has to make you proud.

Now, I don't wish to alarm any of you, but many of the people in this room… are naked! I know. Stay calm. Stay calm. I'm sure they have a good reason for their nudity in a public venue like this.

But perhaps they are already aware what so many people in this wicked world of sin can't get their head around. The fact that God intended us to live like this. That's why He made us like this…in His image... in the first place.

We are a church group unlike almost any other church in the world. We are a true rarity. Almost every church in the world considers how we humble ourselves before our Lord God as He created us… as a sin.

They get this misinformation from interpretations of our Holy Scriptures through different doctrines or dogmas of various religious beliefs.

Instead of reading their Bible themselves, they prefer to accept the interpretations of the man on the pulpit. I pressure people to read the Word of God yourself.

If you have questions, pray about it and read up on parts of the scriptures that give you pause. An Internet search can answer almost any question you have about the Bible. I suggest you get many interpretations to help you in making any decisions on your findings. And always pray about it, so that the Holy Spirit can help you in your understanding.

Adam and Eve's sin was not in their skin. They disobeyed God while listening to the great deceiver, Satan. Satan is still deceiving Christians in the fact that he has

convinced the rest of the world that the image of our Heavenly Father is filthy, dirty, and something to be ridiculed and shamed.

Adam and Eve, becoming aware of their nudity, attempted to camouflage themselves among Eden's forest with leaves in an attempt to hide from God when He decided to visit them late in the day in the Garden.

And when finally confronting God, did they ask Him for His well-known forgiveness? No. They pointed at each other with direct accusations. Eve blamed the serpent for deceiving her. Adam actually blamed God for giving him this mate while pointing her out as the main reason he was deceived. Can you imagine had they simply asked for God's forgiveness. We know of God's amazing mercy and we know that our Heavenly Father would have forgiven them. Perhaps, we might be able to drive to the Walmart naked today had they simply taken to their knees in forgiveness.

But alas, that is not how our history panned out. As a result, God banished them from the Garden of Eden. God created skins for them to wear since He was banishing them from a perfect climate, out into a cursed world of hot days, cold nights, hard rocks, thistles, burrs, and biting insects.

God still loved His creations so much that He needed to give them a covering for when they were in need of it. The Lord God has always loved us so much.

I must ask you, what has changed in God's plan? Adam and Eve brought sin into the world which alienated them from being in God's presence. That's it. After making skins for Adam and Eve to protect them from a cursed world, God sent them out into the wilderness. God made the skins to protect them, but He never commanded them to wear the skins. God still saw them as naked, just as He sees us now. Nothing has changed in God's eyes. Only in man's eyes.

Later, when God appeared to Abram to change his name to Abraham and share with him His plan to make a great nation from Abraham's descendants. God told him of His covenant with the men of Israel.

In Genesis 17:10-14, God told Abraham:

This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep; Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner — those who are not your offspring. Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.

God wanted to propose a covenant with Abraham. He was promising Abraham children during his and his wife's old age that would become a great nation and the Lord showed Abraham the lands his descendants would own. It was a conditional covenant. That being that Abraham and all of the males of his house must wear a mark upon their body determined by God. The mark was not on the forehead or any where else on the torso, arms, or legs.

Though circumcision was a covenant between God and the Jewish people, Paul made it clear that with the advent of baptism through Jesus Christ, that circumcision was not necessary for the gentiles accepting a Christian following.

Later in the Old Testament, Isaiah was given a message from God in Isaiah 20:2-4:

At that time the Lord spoke through Isaiah son of Amoz. He said to him, "Take off the sackcloth from your body and the sandals from your feet." And he did so, going around stripped and barefoot. Then the Lord said, "Just as my servant Isaiah has gone stripped and bare foot for three years, as a sign and portent against Egypt and Gush, so the king of Assyria will lead away stripped and bare foot the Egyptian captives and Gushite exiles, young and old, with buttocks bared —to Egypt's shame.

God would not order one of His prophets to walk naked for three years in protest if it were a sin against God to do so. Would He? As David said in Psalm 139:4, we are fearfully and wonderfully made! God did not sin by making us naked. David and Isaiah knew that.

Many prophets of God shared the natural state of nakedness when praying to and prophesizing from God. Saul and Daniel to name a couple. John the Baptist baptized people in the nude. He baptized Jesus in the nude. One of several times that our Lord and Savior was nude publicly without committing a sin.

In John 13:3-9, Jesus arose from the Last Supper with His disciples to show them how they are to serve their fellow man. John recounts:

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Our NIV Bible translates the original KJV differently by adding the part of an outer garment. But the KJV says:

He riseth from supper, and laid aside His garments; and took a towel, and girded Himself.

It's amazing how we must sensitize the wording of Biblical scripture when it comes to the nakedness of our Savior. Many would have us believe that unlike others that were crucified, Jesus was allowed to wear a diaper of cloth to hide His genitals. Anyone doing a search of crucifixions during the time of the Roman occupation knows that everyone was crucified naked to further their shame. I'm quite sure there would have been a significance to crucifying the "King of the Jews" naked. Plus we know that in John 19:23-24, John wrote:

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, "They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment." So this is what the soldiers did.

The KJV has a closer translation once again, but with basically the same result.

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took the garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also His coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, "They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots." These things therefore the soldiers did.

Not too much difference, but the KJV doesn't seem to store a lot of faith in undergarments during the Roman times.

Later on, as Paul is writing to his friends in Corinth, he mentions our bodies as gifts from God and how precious and sacred we need to hold ourselves mentally and physically. Paul states in 1 Corinthians 6:18-20:

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Our bodies here on earth will not to last forever. Jesus has already promised us that we will have new bodies to house our Holy Spirit in heaven. And Paul tells us that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit while we are on this earth. God would prefer us to be as pure as we can in an evil world.

Our own Christian brother and author, Steven Bebell has mentioned in his published paper, "Why Christians Should Be Nudists" for the Summer 2022 issue of N magazine;

"The greatest objection from both the church and society to the nudist lifestyle is the claimed sexual allure of nudity. Being chaste is seen as the exclusive province of the clothed. I have found the opposite to be true. Clothing is used in many ways to draw attention and be sexually alluring."

“Those new to family nudism are surprised by how rapidly simple nudity is divorced from sexual arousal. I believe our society would have less sex driven crime and Christians would have fewer impure thoughts if casual public nudity became the norm.”

There you have it. I have studied several learned Theologian websites questioning them on “why nudity is a sin.” The answer is always the same. After the fall, man and woman’s eyes were opened and they became aware. Unclothed and clothed were completely new concepts to them. And as a result, sin and fear came about which brought in shame, immorality, lust, and perversion.

I understand their fears. However, I know of a Savior we have in Jesus Christ that can be a shining light before us in a dark world. They say we cannot have an Eden. It is lost to us. I say that through Christ, we can have Eden again. God has created a beautiful and giving world for us to live in if we try to live our lives as pure as Jesus did. I doubt any of us can do that, but Christ has shown you how to serve your fellow man. Follow His beacon and you will find your paradise. With Jesus, all things have become new! We can start anew and be born again.

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