

# Modesty

Covering up *and* dressing appropriately

# Introduction

- Appropriate dress and nakedness are different
  - We *conflate* these ideas together
  - And then, since appropriate clothing is subjective, we claim that nakedness is also subjective, therefore we can never judge if someone is covered enough. This is false logic built on a misunderstanding
- We will look at three main points
  1. Nakedness is sin – we must cover up in public
  2. There are biblical standards we can go by; nakedness is not subjective
    - Nakedness is not just “no clothes on” – you can have some clothes and be “naked” to God
  3. Dressing appropriately is important, too
    - This is often dependent on culture and time

# Is nakedness sinful?

(Yes)

- Originally no... but there is no going back now
  - Adam and Eve did not wear clothes at first, and were right (**Genesis 2:25**)
  - Then they ate of the tree and knew they needed to cover (**Genesis 3:7-11**)
  - Babies have no shame of nakedness
    - They are not sinning
    - But we know it is sin for an adult – so we train the baby
    - If a baby hits or bites, do you let that go unchecked?
  - **Isaiah 5:20** – People will call evil good – today they call nakedness “just fine,” or artistic, or beautiful

# Is nakedness sinful?

(Yes)

- Uncovering nakedness is a metaphor for other sin
  - **Leviticus 18:6** “None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the LORD.” (ESV)
  - Why would you deliberately expose your own nakedness to the world?
- Nakedness is shameful
  - **Isaiah 47:3**, “Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen” (KJV)
  - **Lamentations 1:8**, “all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness” (KJV)
  - **Revelation 3:18**, “be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear” (KJV)

# Is nakedness sinful?

(Yes)

- The 3 prior examples imply that public nakedness (for anyone to see) is the issue
  - Not to say it's *always* OK in less-public settings
- Are there exceptions?
  - Exposure during medical care, caring for elderly
    - **Matthew 12:9-12**
  - Is a small group of the same gender acceptable?
    - Like a locker room, or barracks in Basic Training
  - Do sports make it OK?
  - Does the beach or pool make it OK?

# Remember

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# What is nakedness?

And how do we avoid it?

- Adam and Eve were *partly* covered, yet “naked”
  - **Genesis 3:7** – they had on “loin coverings” (underwear, basically)
  - **Genesis 3:10** – they were still naked
- What is uncovered and becomes nakedness?
  - **Isaiah 47:1-3** – leg and thigh uncovered is nakedness
  - **Exodus 28:42** – garment to cover from the waist to the thighs, to cover nakedness (includes the whole region)
  - Girding up the loins is NOT nakedness – exposing leg *below* the knee is OK
    - **Exodus 12:11** – Commanded; Passover was in haste
  - **Isaiah 20:4** – bottom also
  - **Ezekiel 16:7-8; 23:18-21** – some say it implies the chest

# What is nakedness?

And how do we avoid it?

- The clothing from God WAS enough to cover (**Genesis 3:21**) – what was it?
  - A tunic (*kuttonot*) is a shirt-like piece of clothes
    - Can be translated as *coat* or *robe*
    - Historically the sleeve length differed (none or short or long)
  - **Job 30:18**, “With great force my garment is disfigured; it binds me about like the collar of my tunic.” (ESV)
    - This tunic had a collar
    - “Garment” seems to be a different, generic word (*lebush*)
  - Also, Josph’s coat is a “tunic” (**Genesis 37:3**)

# What is nakedness?

And how do we avoid it?

- Again: are there exceptions?
  - Men in shorts and no shirt?
  - Pictures of unclothed or hardly clothed babies
  - Sports?
  - Beach or pool?

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# Appropriate clothing

- Is still commanded
  - **1 Peter 3:3-4**
  - **1 Timothy 2:9**
- Considerations
  - Can you move around and still be covered? (**Exodus 20:26**)
  - Tight clothing
  - Exposing undergarments
  - Showy clothing (covered and not tight, yet ostentatious)
  - Messaging on shirts (lewdness and innuendo, etc.)
  - Charity-drive t-shirts – whom are you giving free advertising to?

# Conclusion

- Three main points
  1. Nakedness is sin – we must cover up in public
  2. There are biblical standards we can go by; nakedness is not subjective
    - Nakedness is not just “no clothes on” – you can have some clothes and be “naked” to God
  3. Dressing appropriately is important, too
- It's a sacrifice to be modest
  - It will cost you something – finding modest women's clothing is very hard and not cheap
  - **2 Samuel 24:24**