

At another level, the clothing of Adam and Eve with the skins of animals is the first example that we have in the Bible of animal sacrifice for sin. Those skins would remind them of the seriousness of their disobedience to God.

Mercifully, God in his love does not demand their own blood but accepts the blood of animals as a covering for their sins.

It is not until we see the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross that sin is dealt with and not simply covered over.

God never states anywhere in the Bible that we must wear clothes all the time. He left when, where and how to dress (or undress) up to mankind for the most part, and thus it's been human culture rather than God's decree that has determined standards of dress and undress throughout history. And so it is today! People are permitted to be lawfully unclothed in a multitude of areas designated for that purpose in numerous countries around the world. Many return from holiday in warmer climates having experienced the freedom and benefits that naturism can bring as they have swum naked on a beach.

Perhaps if God had intended us to be naked we would have been born without clothes!

## Check out the Christian Naturist Fellowship

WEB: [www.christiannaturist.org.uk](http://www.christiannaturist.org.uk)  
E-MAIL: [admin@christiannaturist.org.uk](mailto:admin@christiannaturist.org.uk)

## Not convinced?

That's understandable. Social naturism is unlike anything most people are familiar with in today's culture, and for that reason they can only guess at what it must be like to be unclothed amidst other men, women and children. Experienced Christian naturists will assure you quite honestly and sincerely that family-orientated social naturism truly is a wholesome and beneficial way of living. Social naturism, like a lot of other things in life, must be experienced to be fully understood and believed.

You probably have lots of questions not answered by this small tract. You might like to get in touch with Fig Leaf Forum. They're an excellent source for additional information about Christian participation in social naturism.

They can help you with any Bible questions you may have and offer suggestions about how to become part of the steadily growing Christian naturist community. Here's how to contact them:

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CANADA

WEB: <http://www.figleafforum.com>  
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## Did you know...

that there are lots of  
Christians who are also  
social naturists?

No? Then read on....

## That might seem like a startling claim, but it's true.

Christian naturists, or nudists as they are known in North America, number in the thousands and are located all over Europe and in many other parts of the world. If you belong to a large church congregation in the United Kingdom, there's a good chance you have naturists within it.

## Just what is social naturism, anyway?

Naturism (also called nudism) is the practice of going without clothing in social settings (generally in mixed-gender groups of all ages) in the belief that doing so is beneficial.

Governed by strict behavioral boundaries, a defining characteristic of genuine social naturism is that it's purposefully non sexual in practice.

## "But what about lust?"

Lust is the same as coveting according to the Bible (Romans 7.7, KJV). Contrary to what you may have been taught, clothes do not prevent lust. The story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife in Genesis 39.6-12 clearly establishes that fact. The Apostle Paul taught that external man-made rules for righteousness have no power to "restrain sensual indulgence" (Colossians 2.20-23). Jesus taught that "nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'," and in principle that includes what enters through the eyes. He taught that it's "what comes out of...men's hearts" that cause things like evil thoughts and sexual immorality (Mark 7.18-23). Social naturism instills into the heart an attitude that actually helps to control lust and inappropriate thoughts.

## What's the point?

### Why would a Christian want to be a naturist?

Social naturism offers numerous benefits to physical, mental and spiritual health. For starters, it simply feels good! Being unclothed when the weather is warm is very comfortable, and once you've gone swimming or been in a hot tub without a swimsuit, you'll never want to wear one again! In fact there are many documented health benefits

On a deeper level, social naturism offers a unique feeling of closeness and trust unavailable in usual settings. It helps participants overcome poor body image.

It offers children and teens a way to avoid unnatural and sometimes unhealthy curiosities about the body.

It affirms and reinforces the fact that there's nothing shameful about the way God made us.

It offers a tangible way for believers to embrace God's view of the human body. In fact, it gives us an opportunity to literally be God's image bearers!

Last but certainly not least, it offers common ground for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with unbelieving naturists willing to receive it.

## "naked and unashamed" Genesis 2.25

## "What's the Bible got to say about it?"

The Bible actually mentions nakedness quite often. If you carefully study the passages that talk about physical nakedness and pay close attention to the context in which they're found, you'll discover that it's never described as being inherently shameful or inherently sinful. After all, we were created "in the image of God" (Genesis 1.27), "naked and unashamed" (Genesis 2.25). And God declared all this "very good" (Genesis 1.31).

After Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God, they made coverings for themselves out of fig leaves (Genesis 3.7). That seems like an odd thing for a husband and wife to do, don't you think? In Genesis 3.11 God asked, "Who told you that you were naked?" It certainly wasn't God.

Covering themselves in leaves and hiding in the bushes didn't hide what they had done from the one who knows the secrets of our hearts. They were guilty and they knew it.

Because Adam and Eve sinned, humanity fell under what's commonly known as the curse. Among other things, Genesis 3 says it would bring "painful toil" and "thorns and thistles" to mankind's existence. Just before expelling them from the safety and ease of the Garden, "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them" (Genesis 3.21). The context of Genesis 3 makes it very clear that God mercifully clothed mankind out of physical necessity, not moral necessity.