

Clothing – God's Original Intent

Genesis 3:7 “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.”

Genesis 3:21 “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make **coats** of skins, and **clothed** them.”

The first result of the first human sin was the realization of shameful nakedness. Sin opened Adam's eyes and his wife's eyes to the fact that their nakedness was exposed. And the first response to the first result was to make an inadequate human attempt to meet the need through personal resources. Adam and his wife made fig leaf loincloths, but man's design was insufficient. After confrontation, confession, and consequences, God then, in response to human need and inadequacy, provided Himself for that need by making clothing for the man and the woman. God made a covering for their nakedness that satisfied His holy requirements.

Since man attempted to care for his nakedness and since God, rejecting mankind's attempts as unacceptable, created clothing for them, then there is an acceptable clothing and an unacceptable clothing. What then is acceptable clothing to God? We can find God's definite design for clothing at least from the waist up in Genesis, at the origin of clothing.

Genesis 3:21 “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make **coats** of skins, and **clothed** them.”

God's choice of clothing for fallen mankind was a coat. What does a coat cover? At minimum, a coat covers the torso. Typically, a coat is a long-sleeved garment ending somewhere around the knee. But it is possible to have a sleeveless coat, and it is possible for a garment to end at the hips or waist and still be called a coat, so the bare minimum that God's choice garment covered is the **entire torso of the male and the female**.

But what about the legs? Do those need covered, and if so how much? God has given us two passages that make His will for covering our body from the waist down crystal clear.

Isaiah 47:1-3 “Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, **uncover the thigh**, pass over the rivers. **Thy nakedness shall be uncovered**, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.”

Exodus 28:42 “And thou shalt make them linen breeches to **cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs** they shall reach:”

The shame of the Babylonian daughter was seen when her thigh was uncovered, showing her nakedness, and the Israelite priest was to cover his nakedness from the loins to the thigh. So, **male or female, the entire thigh** is to be covered.

God has no double standard for clothing. He clearly stated that when both man and woman sinned, they **both** had their eyes opened and they **both** knew that they were naked and they **both** were given torso-covering coats by God. He also declared the thigh nakedness for male **and** female alike.

So then, as Genesis 3:21 shows us, chest or back exposure, whether accidental or intentional, is nakedness for both male and female. And as Exodus 21:42 and Isaiah 47:1-3 reveal, thigh exposure,

accidental or intentional, is nakedness for both male and female. Does your clothing match God's original intent?