

OPERATION FIG LEAVES (Part 2)

Last Sunday, we studied Paul (1 Tim.2:9-10) and Peter (1 Pet.3:3-5) commenting on the subject of the Spiritual role of Christian women in the Church, home, and world.

They both taught on the importance of placing daily emphasis on inner spiritual beauty as well as on outer beauty in the Christian Way of Life (CWL).

(1 Pet.3:3-5) “Your adornment must **not be merely external** – but let it be the hidden person of the heart.”

(1 Tim.2:10) “But rather by means of good works (gpln), as (hos/ nsn) is proper (prepo/ a.a.ind.3ps) [To be conspicuous or distinguished by godliness] for women making a claim (epaggello/ p.m.ptc.dplf) [professing] to godliness (theosebeia/ priority of devotion to God” [Inner spiritual beauty]

In the Greek Bible, the textual order of emphasis is important to its translation.

(Prov.31:31) “But what (hos) is proper for women professing godliness, by means of good works (agathos ergon) [Divine Production].”

This lesson will study five aspects of Operation Fig Leaves (Part two).

1. Peter used Sarah as an example of the visual reflection of this inner spiritual beauty in the world (1 Pet.3:1-6).

- At the age of 65, Pharaoh saw Sarah’s inner spiritual beauty and desired it (Gen.12:11-14).
- At the age of 89, King Abimelech saw Sarah’s inner spiritual beauty and desired it (Gen.20:1-2)

(Prov.31:30) “Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears (reverences) the Lord, she shall be praised.” (Matt.23:27-28)

(Prov.11:22) You have heard the world say, “Beauty is only skin deep but ugly is to the bone.” Solomon stated it this way, “As a ring of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.”

This would be a description of Queen Jezebel, worldly wife of King Ahab, recorded in 1 Kings 16-22.

1. Clothes and cosmetics compliment the body NOT the soul. They can make you feel good about how you look on the outside but not on how you feel about the person inside, the real YOU.

Look into the eyes and see the reflection of the real inner person.

(Luke 22:61) “The **Lord turned and looked** (emblepo/ penetrating look) **at Peter**. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, ‘Before the rooster crow today, you will deny Me three times.’”

(Matt.6:22-23) “The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear (haplous/ singleness of God’s purpose), your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad (poneros/ evil of devil), your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, **how great is the darkness!**” (psycho-somatic illness) (Eph.1:17-19)

(Prov.15:30a) “Bright eyes gladden the heart.” (the mere perception of something good)

2. **When we first met Adam and Eve, they did not have a spiritual problem with nakedness as adults in the presence of the Lord. “And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.” (Gen.2:25)**

In this state of spiritual innocence, they were not ashamed of their nakedness much like a toddler with parents. Nakedness is mentioned three times related to fall (Gen.3:7, 10 and 11).

Their spiritual innocence was reflected in their relaxed spiritual mental attitude towards both their nakedness and relationship with the Lord (naked and unashamed).

However, after their sin and spiritual death, their solution to unspiritual nakedness was human good works with operation fig leaves (Gen.3:4-11). Later their first born son will do a similar thing in Gen.4:1-7.

3. **When they disobeyed the command NOT to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they suffered the consequences of their sin (note the changes).**

(Gen.2:17) contained a consequence clause for this sin - “But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you **shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.” (Gen.2:17) [Dying you shall die]

God did not promise that would receive knowledge if they eat from it.

Where did they get that promise?

(Gen.3:1-5) “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Gen.3:5) [Cosmos Diabolicus]

- They did get what God promised from sin
 - **You will surely die (Gen.2:17).**
- They did get what devil promised from sin
 - **The eyes of them both were opened to their spiritual nakedness**
 - (Gen.3:7) “Then the **eyes** of both of them were opened, and they **knew** that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.”

4. **There are seven things we can learn from their disobedience.**

- **We can learn** that the knowledge of the consequent of sin is eyes being opened to divine truth verses cosmos diabolicus lies, spiritual nakedness, shame, guilt, fear, hiding, and absenteeism and negative volition to Bible study (Gen.3:8-10).
- **We can learn** the hard way that evil is not good; and that evil is from devil and good is from God.
- **We can learn** that sin is the lost of spiritual innocence and spirituality (hunger and thirst for God’s righteousness) and fellowship with the Lord.
- **We can learn** that God is faithful to His promises no matter how it affects our lives.
- **We can learn** that no one is better off by sin than by obeying God’s word.
- **We can learn** that human good works (operation fig leaves) is no substitute for Blood of Christ for resolving sin in your life.
- **We can learn** that what they were now experiencing the hard way they had learned previously the easy way by faith in Bible class.