## 8.24.20 - The Elephant in the Room

"Women are not weaker than men. They are not the weaker sex. They are the other sex."

God did not give the same strengths to both sexes. We were created to complement one another we were not created to compete with one another. God made men and women different...we have different strengths and we have different weaknesses. These differences do not make one better than the other, they just make us different. How many men would be willing to go through the pain of giving birth? How many men could handle the emotional stress of caring for the needs of the newborn baby? We are not better or worse, we are just different. I have told my wife many times that I would not trade her jobs for anything in the world...she works way harder than I do. Neither one of us are better than the other, we are just different.

Our son and daughter-in-love just had our first grandson recently...a little baby boy. It's been a little over 4 months now and our son was saying the other day that his wife is incredible the way she handles the 24/7 job of raising Benjamin. He said he's worn out after just a few hours of watching the baby. But he works twelve-hour days at his job five and six days a week to provide for them and she thanked him the other day for all his hard work to provide for them and allowing her to stay home full time with the baby. They both believe that the other is working harder than themselves and they are both grateful to each other. They are each stronger than the other in their respective areas. They are not better than the other, they are just different.

So, let's deal with that difference for a few minutes as it relates to naturism and nudity. The elephant in the room so to speak is that women can get treated differently by men who do not think of women as God's special creation, but instead have been conditioned by Satan and the world to think of women as objects of sexual gratification. We want to deal with this as it relates to attending a naturist retreat or visiting a

nude beach, etc. We realize...sooner or later it is more than likely, that one of our ladies will run into one of these jerks and it might just help to be mentally prepared for that inevitability and not to have a knee jerk reaction. When confronted with one of these jerks some women can have the reaction that naturism must be bad because there are jerks who pretend to be naturists who are nothing more than perverts in disguise.

What is the right reaction and how can we mentally prepare for this inevitability? Is the fact that there are jerks in the naturist community enough to make us abandon naturism? We certainly hope not. I'd start by asking the question...are there not jerks in every community? Are there jerks who attend church? If so, should we stop attending church? Are there jerks who are in sales? If so, should we avoid sales as a career? Are there musicians who are jerks? If so, should we avoid being musicians? I'm sure you get the point...there are jerks in every walk of life! Why then would we blame the walk of life rather than putting the blame where it belongs...on the jerk?

That said, when a person is a jerk, it can be emotionally unsettling if not emotionally scarring. How we deal with that emotion can make all the difference in the world in how we heal and how we move forward in life. When someone makes an unwelcomed comment at a nudist resort the easy reaction is to say "see, if I wasn't at a nudist resort that would have never happened." But is that true, we have witnessed jerks making inappropriate comments at a textile beach...we have seen jerks making inappropriate comments at a restaurant. You see, it's not the location, it's the jerk.

The other challenge is that some people have gone through emotional scarring as a result of someone sexually abusing them either as a child or even as an adult. The resulting pain and scars of such an encounter are not easy to overcome. In fact, some never do. Sometimes they blame themselves. Sometimes they blame the people who should have been protecting them. Sometimes they blame God. Most are left with feelings of inadequacy and believe they are somehow worth less because

of the encounter. Most feel like they are damaged and so they feel less attractive. All or some of these emotions are hinderances to living the life that God intended from the beginning. The emotions are completely understandable, but they are also ungodly. How someone treated you, no matter how horrible the event does not make you any less valuable to God or to us. The fact that someone was a jerk in your life does not reduce the beauty that is you. They did an evil thing, do not allow that evil thing to compound the damage by allowing yourself to think less of the wonderful special creation of God's that you are! Do not allow that evil thing to keep you from the life that God wants you to live.

We have written so many articles on biblical naturism that by now hopefully you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that naked and not ashamed is how God intended for us to live from the beginning. Honoring God by displaying His image for the world to see and magnify the God of that beautiful creation (yes you are beautiful...you're made in His image). The health benefits, the body image emotional benefits, the changed mind from seeing the body as sexual to seeing the body as normal and God honoring. The benefits of porn proofing your husband and children and their increased self-image as well as the reduction in gender identity confusion. The elimination of the Hollywood image and striving for the perfect body versus accepting and loving the body God gave you. And so many more benefits too numerous to name.

You will meet jerks in life and some of them will be at naturist venues. When you do, we are hoping that this little article will help you keep your perspective. Blame the jerk, not the biblical naturist lifestyle. Then our suggestion would be to forgive the jerk so that you aren't the one carrying the weight of bitterness. Let them carry the weight of their bad choices, not you.