

## A Marriage Minute™

A simple help to make your marriage just a little better this week.

### **FIG LEAVES DON'T COVER**



*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good... She also gave some to her husband, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. --Genesis 3:6,7*

This was the first "cover up". Adam and Eve felt guilt and shame, so they tried to cover up, but it didn't work. Then they tried to hide from God. That didn't work either. Unfortunately, not much has changed since then. We still try to cover up our sin and misdeeds with fig leaves of one kind or another. Maybe we'll try to compensate for our sin with other good deeds. Often single parents give children everything they want to try to make up for failure of the marriage. I knew of a man who was having an affair. Each time he saw his mistress he brought home flowers to his wife to cover his own guilt. What a fig leaf! Others use alcohol or drugs to cover the shame. Anger makes for a good fig leaf. You know, "I'll get angry with you first so you won't dare challenge me on my sin." We've even learned how to use more noble fig leaves like pouring ourselves into our work. It doesn't matter; a fig leaf is a fig leaf. It will never cover, and so you continue to try to hide from God.

What's the answer then? "The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and he clothed them." (-Gen. 3:21). And so it is with us. We must first "walk in the light" (be honest with God and with one another), surrender to Christ, and His blood will cleanse us of all sin. It doesn't just cover; it washes it away. Without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness. That's why fig leaves don't work, no matter how noble. Let's chuck the fig leaves; let's put on Christ!

Question for both of us: What are some of the fig leaves we've tried to use to cover up our shortcomings, our insensitivities, and our sin?

Prayer for both of us: Lord, help us to quit the cover up once and for all. Help us to be open and honest with you and with one another, to confess our sin, put on Christ and follow him all the days of our lives.

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*This Couples Devotional is brought to you by Marriage & Family Savers Ministries. Visit them at [www.marriageandfamily.org](http://www.marriageandfamily.org)*

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