

## Of Veils and Curtains *or* What are you hiding there?

Discuss the purpose and value of curtains and veils. Would we want to eliminate them? Explain.

In what ways might curtains and veils be a form of deception?

What sort of curtains and veils do men produce or acquire for themselves (perhaps intangible), and what are their advantages or disadvantages?

*Ex 34:29-35* When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai. When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD. (NIV)

Discuss Moses' action of veiling himself and why he took it.

What might provoke us to veil ourselves in some way?

If we are "veiled," when might we drop the curtain, and why?

*2 Cor 3:7-10* Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. (NIV)

*2 Cor 3:12-18* Therefore, since we have such a hope, **we are very bold**. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (NIV)

Discuss Paul's application of Moses' veil, and what it suggests we ought to do.

What ought to be unveiled, open, in the life of a believer?

Is it wise or desirable to be completely uncovered? Explain.

List things that really ought to be "veiled" in Christian lives and behavior.

How can a Christian find the right balance between appropriate veiling for humility or propriety and appropriate openness and honesty?