

GENDER ROLES IN THE CHURCH?

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Questions we need to answer:

- 1) What does biblical headship mean and what does biblical submission look like?
- 2) What is cultural only?
- 3) What is relevant for us today?

What is Biblical “Headship” and What Does Biblical Submission Look Like?

- **“Head” = *kephale*** (Greek). Can mean **authority** or **source**.
- *“But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 11:3)
- *“For man did not come from woman, but woman came from man. 9 Neither was man created for the sake of woman, but woman for the sake of man. 10 This is why a woman should have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. 11 In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, and man is not independent of woman. 12 For just as woman came from man, so man comes through woman, and all things come from God.”* (1 Corinthians 11:8-12)
- **God has created a divine order with distinct roles for men and women.**
- **There is no divine distinction between men and women in that BOTH are equal in standing God’s Kingdom, while differing in role here on earth.**
- *“[Apollos] began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.”* (Acts 18:26)
- *“Give my greetings to Prisca and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their own necks for my life.”* (Romans 16:3a)
- *“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church in Cenchreae. 2 So you should welcome her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints and assist her in whatever matter she may require your help. For indeed she*

has been a benefactor of many—and of me also.” (Romans 16:1-2)

- *“They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers... When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.”* (Acts 1:14, 2:1-4)
- **“And it will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit on all people; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. 18 I will even pour out my Spirit on my servants in those days, both men and women and they will prophesy.”** (Acts 2:17-19) [Quoting the Prophet Joel 2:28-32]
- **In the same way Jesus willingly submitted to God the Father, men are to willingly submit to Christ, and wives are to willingly submit to their husbands.**
- **Biblical headship is NOT:** 1) Men being domineering over women. 2) Subservience of women. 3) A silencing of women in the Church. 4) A restriction of women to lead in the church and the world.

What Is Cultural Only in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16?

- *“12 For just as woman came from man, so man comes through woman, and all things come from God. 13 Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? 14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair it is a disgrace to him, 15 but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her as a covering. 16 If anyone wants to argue about this, we have no other custom, nor do the churches of God.”* (1 Corinthians 11:12-16)
- **“The divine order is rooted in creation itself, not in Corinthian culture.” - Greear**

- “The Corinthians consistently blended together elements of the Christian faith with practices from their pagan past.” – Chuck Quarles
- **Women intent on abusing their Christian liberty and rebelling against headship, discarded their veil or cut their hair short.**

What is Relevant for Today From 1 Corinthians 11:2-16?

- *“Every man who prays or prophesies with something on his head dishonors his head. 5 Every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since that is one and the same as having her head shaved.”* (1 Corinthians 11:4-5)
- **God created men and women to be distinctly different, and Christians should embrace their God-given design and role as male and female.**
- *“So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.”* (Genesis 1:27)
- **Men and women are equally important in the Church and the home while having different roles.**
- **Any attempt to portray women as “less than” is a gross distortion and abuse of the Scriptures.**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- What is the main issue Paul addresses in 1 Cor. 11:2-16?
- What was Paul specifically addressing when he spoke about hair length in this passage of Scripture?
- Why does Paul mention the angels in verse 10?

Understanding

- What is the difference between the function and role between men and women based on this study?
- Why does the word “submission” stir up such a negative response/feeling with so many Christians?
- Why is being the “head” of the wife **not** a license to be domineering and controlling with the wife?
- Based on what we learned from this study, what does the Bible teach us about the importance of women in the Church?
- In what ways can we live out the instructions from Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 in our lives today? Be specific to the context. (Timeless principle)

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

****Connect Group Discussion On Back****