

Student Guide: 1 Corinthians 11 – God’s Order, God’s Power, God’s Peace

Foundational Truth

The church of the living God does **not** lack gifting, anointing, or spiritual empowerment. The challenge arises when gifting is **disconnected from God’s order**.

“God never anoints disorder, and He never blesses rebellion. Heaven is not impressed by ability without authority, nor power without submission.” – 1 Corinthians 14:33

Key Principle:

True apostolic revival comes through **submission to God’s authority**, not through human excitement or sensationalism.

I. Spiritual Headship

Foundational Text: 1 Corinthians 11:1–5

- Headship is **creational**, not cultural.
- God established order before the church, culture, or sin (Genesis 1–2).
- Proper alignment **releases power**, it doesn’t limit it.
- Submission channels God’s power:
 - Christ submits to the Father (John 5:19; 1 Cor 15:28)
 - Man submits to Christ (Eph 5:23)
 - Woman submits within God’s structure (Eph 5:22–24)

“Anything misaligned will eventually lose authority—even if it keeps its volume.”

II. Women and Public Ministry

- Scripture affirms women **pray and prophesy in public worship** (1 Cor 11:4–5).
- The question is not **if** women minister, but **how ministry operates within God’s order**.
- 1 Timothy 2–3 clarifies **roles and authority**, not gifting:
 - Overseers (ἐπίσκοπος) and shepherds (ποιμαίνω) are defined roles
 - Scripture limits offices, not anointings

“God never pours out His Spirit just to silence His people.”

III. Silence and God's Order

- 1 Corinthians 14 shows **silence is situational, not gendered**:
 - Tongue-speakers silent if no interpreter (14:28)
 - Prophets silent when another receives revelation (14:30)

Context:

- Corinthian women were disruptive, influenced by false teaching.
- Ephesian false teaching:
 - Sexual activity, childbirth, and women's roles = sinful or defiling
 - Extreme asceticism promoted as path to holiness

Paul's Response:

- Women and childbearing are honorable and redemptive (1 Tim 2:15)
 - "Saved" here = **kept safe or preserved in God's plan**
 - Leadership corrections were **situational, not universal**
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IV. Biblical Witness of Women

Women have historically been used by God in powerful roles:

- Disciples of Jesus (Luke 8:1–3)
- Daughters prophesy (Joel 2:28)
- Philip's daughters prophesied (Acts 21:9)
- Phoebe – deacon and minister (Romans 16:1–2)
- Deborah – judge of Israel (Judges 4:4)
- Huldah – prophet to kings (2 Kings 22:14)

"God pours out His Spirit on all flesh—but never without order."

V. Gifting Without Governance

- Corinth was gifted but chaotic: everyone had a hymn, word, or revelation (1 Cor 14:26).
- Paul's correction:

"The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (14:32)

- Gifts **do not cancel governance**.
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VI. Head Coverings: Visible Sign of Invisible Truth

- Paul teaches head coverings (or hair) as a symbol of **authority and alignment** (1 Cor 11:6, 14–15).
- Corinthian context:
 - Veils = modesty, honor, marital faithfulness
 - Uncovered head = potential rebellion or sexual availability
- Principle: **symbols communicate spiritual alignment**

Historical Practice:

- First 1500+ years: women wore coverings in worship
- Reformation: Reformers still taught coverings
- 20th century: decline due to fashion, cultural change, and feminist movement

Key Principle:

“God gives visible signs to protect invisible authority.”

VII. Authority on Her Head—Because of the Angels

- 1 Cor 11:9–10: Woman created for man, has **delegated authority**
- Submission **positions power properly**, it does not remove it

Spiritual Application:

- Women’s prayers, intercession, and alignment **strengthen the home and church**
 - Submission = spiritual protection, honors God’s order, resists demonic attack
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VIII. Restoration Through Proper Alignment

- Genesis 3 introduced disorder; Christ restores design (Eph 5:21–23)
- Mutual submission heals the curse; ultimate spiritual responsibility rests with godly male leadership
- Where order is restored:
 - Confusion leaves (1 Cor 14:33)
 - Power flows (Acts 2:1)
 - Peace reigns (Col 3:15)

Spiritual Principle:

- Head coverings, submission, and honoring God's order = **both protection and channel for God's power**
- Angels recognize and honor order; demons look for broken patterns

“The church cannot afford prayerless women—or irresponsible men.”