

- I) V2 INTRO: Now I praise you brethren that you remember me in all things and keep
This is the beginning of a new section of Paul's letter
- II) Paul is dealing with a question concerning **authority** and **submission**
He is specifically writing regarding the issue of women and biblical submission
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT
- III) It is important because the **Christian Christian women** had legitimate questions
These questions were contributing to an imbalance in the Church
IN OUR DAY
- IV) When women disagree with something, the Church adopts the spirit of the age
To accommodate the questions that may arise, the church compromises
- V) It is common to adopt the standards of **the culture** and abandon Scripture
QUOTE
- VI) Here is the great evangelical disaster - the failure of the evangelical world to stand
for truth **as truth**. There is only one word for this - **accommodation**. The evangelical
church has accommodated to the world **spirit of the age**. There has been
accommodation **on Scripture**, so that many who call themselves evangelicals hold a
weakened view of the Bible and no longer affirm the truth of all that the Bible teaches.
This accommodation **has been costly**, first in destroying the power of the Scriptures to
confront the spirit of our age **and second**, in allowing the further slide of our culture.
- VII) Some reinterpret Scripture in order to force upon it new **interpretations**
They interpret Scripture through the lense of opinions and culture
THE RESULT
- VIII) **We** speak **to Scripture**, rather than allowing **Scripture** to speak **to us**
This puts **us** in the position of authority, and Scripture is stripped of authority
- IX) We are not in the place of authority: **Scripture is**
Our responsibility is to either **accept** what the Word of God says, or to reject it
The fact is, we cannot reinterpret it to suit our own personal tastes
- X) Christians understand that it is Scripture that judges us, and not we Scripture
Jn 12:48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my
words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.
- XI) The church stands against societal influences that contradict biblical teaching

- I) This includes all aspects of society, including the family
HE BEGINS
- II) V2 Now I praise you brethren that **you remember me** in all things and keep the I commend **those of you** who respect my apostolic authority
- III) The fact that you are asking questions reveals your respect for my authority
You normally won't ask for directions from someone you don't respect
They are asking questions, and he is blessed to be able to answer them
HE GOES ON
- IV) V2 Also that you are keeping **the traditions** as I have delivered them to you
Traditions speak of **instructions**, or the Spirit inspired **teachings** he gave
This would speak of the Spirit inspired revelation of how to live as a Christian
WHAT ARE TRADITIONS
- V) Traditions are teachings handed down from one person to another
Traditions are only as valid **as their source** and **could be** of no spiritual benefit
- VI) In Israel, some traditions became heavy burdens for people to bear
Lu 11:46 (Jesus said) And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down **with burdens** they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.
- VII) Some of the Jewish traditions made it more difficult to have relation to God
Mt 15:1-6 Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, "Why do your disciples **break the tradition** of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!" Jesus replied, "And why do you break **the command** of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake **of your tradition**."
- VIII) **In this case**, the **traditions** Paul speaks of are God given and are to be received
2 Th 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold **the traditions** which you have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.
2 Th 3:6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to **the tradition** which he received from us.

- I) Paul speaks of **traditions** because the NT was in the process of being written
The letters and books were written between 45-100 AD

AT THIS POINT

- II) **Paul's writings** were already being recognized as **authoritative scripture**

Peter spoke of his letters as scripture

2 Pe 3:16 (Paul) writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do **the other Scriptures**, to their own destruction.

CONTEXT

- III) The church was young, and was in need of teachings on **Christian behavior**

They had questions about teachers, marriage, divorce, remarriage, idols

This is another question they have: the role of women in the church

AS WE BEGIN

- IV) Paul is speaking specifically of instructions they have received from him

He is commending them for recognizing that his teachings were **inspired**

- V) V2 Now **I praise you**, brethren, that you remember (**bear in mind**) me in all things
He praises them for having the willingness to put into practice his teachings

- VI) In doing so he is also preparing them for correction

- VII) Paul now deals with the issue of women and submission

- VIII) V3 But I want you to know, I want you *to know* (**understand**) that the head of every
He is writing concerning the relationship between husbands and their wives

- IX) The relationship between men and women is of fundamental importance

It is the building block of the Church, and society as a whole

His teaching on **submission** is a reflection of what is called **a greater design**

- X) We find that Jesus submitted to His Father and embraced the Cross

Had He refused to do so, we would be forever lost

Phil 2:5-8 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

- I) V3-6 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ
He begins by detailing *authority* and *subordination*
- II) The **head** of man is Christ the **head** of woman is man the **head** of Christ is God
Head: Speaks of the ruling authority; anything supreme, chief, or prominent
FIRST
- III) The head of **every man** is Christ (which speaks of the church itself)
Jesus is the authority over *everything*
Mt 28:18 Jesus came to them and said, **All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me
Phil. 2:10-11 At the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and **every tongue** confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- IV) As the head over everything Jesus is Head of the Church
Col. 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.
Eph. 1:22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.
- V) Since Jesus is the authority over the church, **man** is submitted to Him
Man is to be so obviously submitted to Jesus that his wife will know it
He will **love** her, **sacrifice**, **cleanse her** with the word, **nourish** and **cherish** her
SECOND
- VI) Man is the head of woman: Man has authority by virtue of the priority of Creation
This distinction is not based on value, abilities, intellect, or spirituality
It is based on complementary roles and order in society
- VII) For biblical order to be established and maintained husbands assume leadership
They are to lead their homes as godly men, and wives submit to this order
Eph 5:22-23 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the savior of the body.
THIRD
- VIII) The Head of Christ is God
In His incarnation and for salvation Jesus fully submitted to His Father's will

I) Jn 4:34 Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.

Jn 5:30 I can of My own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and My judgment is just; because I seek not My own will, but the will of the Father Who has sent Me.

Heb 10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come **in the volume of the book it is written of Me**, to do thy will O God

II) His subordination established the template for our relationship to God
This is God's chain of authority and is built on proper submission

III) V4-6 Every man praying or prophesying **having his head covered** dishonors his
To develop this thought, Paul utilizes a local custom and practice to **illustrate**

IV) In Corinth men did not wear veils, or hats when praying or prophesying
Jewish headgear was not worn during prayer until the 3rd-6th Century AD

V) In Corinth, men wearing a veil while praying was a disgrace
To do so insulted Jesus because Jesus is in fact, his head covering
Women, on the other hand, wore head coverings

QUOTE

VI) This was an open demonstration that her beauty was reserved for one man, and that she did not even desire to attract other men's attention because she was totally committed to her husband, alone

Only prostitutes, slaves, and adulteresses did not cover their heads

THE PROBLEM

VII) In Corinth, women were removing their veils as a sign of liberty in Jesus
Paul is saying: Do not do this because it has negative associations

VIII) You look like you are part of the Corinthian Woman's liberation movement
ONE COMMENTATOR SAID

IX) Interestingly, in this movement women began to try to look like men
They removed their veils, left husbands and homes, refused to care for their children, lived with other men, demanded jobs traditionally held by men, wore men's clothing and hair styles, and discarded **all signs of femininity**.

PAUL IS SAYING

X) If you are associate with this movement and lifestyle you dishonor your husband
Remember ch 10:23: all things are lawful but not necessarily helpful or edifying

- I) V7 For man indeed ought not to cover his head since he is the image and glory of Paul defends this principle by appealing to created order
- II) Man is created in the moral, intellectual image of God: We bring glory to God Col 3:10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him Eph 4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
- III) When Adam was created, he was given dominion and authority Eve was to bring honor to Adam as he ministered to her
- IV) She brings glory to man: his main ministry
- V) V8-9 For man is not from woman but woman from man For this reason the woman In God's original design women were created to complete man
- VI) V10 For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head Woman brings glory to the man through proper submission Because of angels: The faithful ones don't understand disobedience (1 Pe 3:1-6)
- VII) V11-12 Neither is man independent of woman nor woman independent of man **We need each other**, because **we function together** in spiritual teamwork **OBVIOUSLY**
- VIII) We do not teach that women are inferior to men, but have roles Many women have spiritual hunger: Mary and Martha Lu 10:38-42 Are support to the work of the Lord: Lu 8:1-3 Are selfless servants: Phoebe Ro 16:1-2 Provide training and development of children, support husbands, nurture children in ministry, never cease being mothers to their children
- IX) V13-16 Judge among yourselves Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her He now appeals to the general rule and custom the Corinthians are familiar with
- X) There are societal norms that people naturally develop In the culture of Corinth men would wear their hair shorter than the women This became a picture of the differences between men and women

- I) This was a recognition of the inherent differences between male and female
As a way of distinguishing men from women, and is a natural thing
- II) In the OT, there is a prohibition intended to reduce confusion of genders
Dt 22:5 A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.
- III) This pertains to gender distinctions, and is to promote identity and roles
It is intended to emphasize the differences between men and women
It is also intended to illustrate God's design in distinctions between the sexes
- IV) This would be seen in the fact that men's hair grows differently than women
There are three stages of growth
- V) Men have **testosterone** causing our hair to grow, rest, and then fall out
Women have **estrogen** and stay in **cycle one** longer, and **rarely** reach cycle three
POINT
- VI) Women can have longer hair and can use it as a modesty covering, but men don't
Paul is saying: Men, be men and women, be women
NOTICE
- VII) V16 But if anyone seems to be contentious we have no such custom nor do the
Be sensitive to the culture and the way people are being effected
Not all cultures agree on this particular custom, so be sensitive in yours
- VIII) V16 We have no such custom nor do the churches of God
We have no rule for every culture so be sensitive to the one you are part of
Women appearing without veils in your culture is disapproved, so be sensitive
THE HEART OF THIS IS
- IX) We do not disregard male and female roles; women are submitted