

Last Week at *Hope Fellowship...*

Recapping!

1. This is one of the most complex chapters in the New Testament, with around 30 interpretive issues.
2. Upper class women, sick of being mistreated by adulterous husbands, entered the church and enjoyed prominence. They spoke out of turn, disrupting the teaching.
3. Paul teaches extensively to show them the importance of male leadership:
 - a. This was the traditional practice of all the churches in Israel/Palestine.
 - b. Paul is the pattern given in creation.
 - c. This is what is proper and honorable.

Today, we turn our attention towards Paul focusing on what is honorable, for the sake of the church’s reputation and the dignity of its membership.

Gospel Witness (The Church’s Reputation)

Shaved heads and head coverings

Shaving the head of a woman was a public humiliation for adultery.

Upstanding Corinthian women wore their hair up, not down.

A good possibility is that the hair worn in an “up” position itself was considered a head covering. (v. 15)

Church is a public event

Paul is concerned with what unbelievers think when they enter the church.

1 Corinthians 14:23 If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

A possibility for vs. 10... “Because of the angels” referring to Roman spies investigating the church

Stay weird... but not too weird!

What about Paul’s argument from nature?

“By this, he means what is natural to their culture.” - Garland

1. Men and women’s hair grow the same, naturally!
2. Compare to the Nazirite vow, were Samson and others disobeying God?
3. “Long hair is not fit for boys, but for ... women.” - *Pseudo-Phocylides, circa 50 AD*

Honor (The Dignity of the Church’s Membership)

Concern for Honor

Dishonor in verses 4,5

Disgrace in verse 6, 14

Humans are made for honor

Psalm 8:4-5 “What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.”

Act Honorably

Honor Your Spouse

Honor Others

Romans 12:10 “Outdo one another in showing honor.”

Philippians 2:3 “In humility, value others over yourselves.”

Questions for Personal Study

1. Why is it necessary to distinguish between absolute moral commands and cultural preferences?
2. What is a way that you can honor others around you, or your spouse?
3. What are some practices by which you might dishonor yourself?
4. What does it say about you that God made you a little lower than the angels?