

# 1 Corinthians 11

Jesus

- OT Examples NT Truths
- Flee Idolatry/Easy way
- All Glory to God

## I. Head Coverings

**1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.**

**1 Corinthians 10:33b** ...not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, **that they may be saved.**

**2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.**

- **Sarcasm?** Paul used it Ch.4/Will again in v6

I praise you for remembering me in all things?  
For obeying all that I taught you?

**3 ...I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.**

God's Order of Authority/Headship

- Head of **every man** is Christ: The head of all humanity is Christ
- Head of **woman** is man: The head of a married woman is her husband
- Head of Christ is the Father: Equal-yet willingly subject to the Father

**Philippians 2:5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be **equal with God**, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

**-Issue:** Women in the church in Corinth began cutting their hair

**-Problem:** This was how Corinthian prostitutes identified themselves

**-Rationale:** I am free in Christ to do as I please

**-Big Picture:** Motive of the Heart. Why was this happening?

Woman began exposing their heads while praying

At the same time: Pharisee men covered their heads while praying [misinterpreting Moses veil]

**4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. 5 But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved 6 For if a woman is not covered, let her also be**

**shorn.** But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered.

▪ **Context:** Praying/Prophecy

1. **Men/Women Praying:** Speaking to God
2. **Men/Women Prophecy:** God speaking to man through man

**A man** praying/prophecy wearing head covering?  
Dishonors his Head...Jesus Christ

IOWs For a man to cover his head was to say *I am not in authority*  
Dishonoring Christ who *put him in authority*

**A woman** praying/prophecy not covering her head?  
Dishonors her head...I.e. Husband

IOWs For a woman to uncover her head was to say *I am in authority*  
Dishonors her husband whom *Christ put in authority*

Big Picture? Motive

Why did the Corinthian woman even begin wanting to uncover their head?

**Genesis 3:16b** [Back to the curse] **...Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.**

IOWs You will desire to usurp the *role* of your husband  
He will respond harshly to that rebellion/Both of you will need counseling

Among the Corinthian Christians, there were probably certain "spiritual" women who declared that since Jesus, they did not need to demonstrate with a hairstyle or head covering that they were under anyone's authority. In essence, Paul says to these women [v6], "If you are going to forsake your head covering, go all the way and shave your head, and identify yourself with the women of the world, in all their shame." [Guzik]

Head Covering for the woman was Symbolic  
An indication of being under the Authority/Protection of another

Culture of the time in Corinth reflected God's order of Authority/Headship  
Women had long hair/Head covering while praying/prophecy

7 For a **man indeed ought not to cover his head**, since he is the **image and glory of God**; but **woman is the glory of man**. [Why?] 8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man. 9 Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. 10 For this reason the woman **ought to have a symbol of authority** on her head, **because of the angels**.

Men are not to cover their heads. Why?  
Because of Adam, Eve and Angels

1. **Adam** was the first in order of creation to bear the image/glory of God
2. **Eve** was the glory of Adam/Created from Adam for Adam/Not less than Adam

Thus the wife wears the symbol of her husband's authority on her head  
Male spiritual leadership is not dictated by culture or custom but by creation and design

**1 Timothy 2:8b** ...women [should] adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works ...**12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man**, but to be in silence. 13 For **Adam was formed first**, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the **woman being deceived**, fell into transgression.

**Ephesians 5:22** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is **head of the wife**, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the **church is subject to Christ**, so let the **wives be to their own husbands in everything**.

To submit to God's order of Authority/Headship is to submit to God  
At the end of 1 Pet 2 *Jesus submitted Himself to men by committing Himself to the Father...*

**1 Peter 3:1** **Wives, likewise**, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 rather let it be the **hidden person of the heart**, with the **incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit**, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you **are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror**. [*Not afraid because God is with you in your obedience*]

Committing your submission to God's order back to God  
IOWs Trusting without fear that He can/will deal w/your husband

Women were to cover their heads in submission to husbands/God's order  
Men are not to cover their heads when praying/prophesying. Why?

1. **Adam**: First to bear the image/glory of God
2. **Eve**: Glory of Adam/Created from/for Adam
3. **Because of Angels**...Watching God's order on earth

**Ephesians 3:10** ... the **manifold wisdom of God [is] made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places...**

**1 Corinthians 4:9b** ...we have been made a spectacle to the world **both to angels** and to men.

**1 Peter 1:12** [OT Prophets] ...were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven— **things which angels desire to look into.**

The angels probably marvel at [God's] grace and patience with little man. [JV McGee]

Significantly, none of these reasons [re. woman covered/men uncovered] are culture dependent. The order and manner of creation and the presence of angels do not depend on culture. We cannot say, "Paul said this just because of the thinking of the Corinthian culture or the place of women in that culture." The principles are eternal, but the **out-working of the principles may differ according to culture.** [Guzik]

Today? Outright societal attack on authority of any kind  
Result? Chaos. Resist authority...Resist God. Resist God...expect Chaos

We must see the broader attack on authority as a direct Satanic strategy to destroy our society and millions of individual lives. The devil is accomplishing this with two main attacks: first, the **corruption of authority**; second, the **rejection of authority.** [Guzik]

- **God's economy:** Those in submission are no less than those in authority
- Is Jesus less than the Father? Submission leads to order not chaos

Crux/Bottom Line: Head covering for woman: A symbol of submission to authority  
Why were the women in Corinth hell-bent on removing it? Freedom or Rebellion?

**1 Samuel 15:23: For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.**

Men/Women have different roles but are 100% equal in the eyes of God...  
Woman ought to recognize authority...

**11 Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. 12 For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.**

Men/women are interdependent on each other  
The first woman Eve came **from man**/Every other man **came from a woman**

**Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, **there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

It is nonsense for either a man or a woman to talk about liberation. The man needs the woman and the woman needs the man. This is true liberty in the glorious relationship of marriage. [JV McGee]

Paul's rationale is NOT Culture/Custom but is Creation/Design  
Paul now does references current Grecian culture re. Hair

**13 Judge among 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 dishonor to him? 15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.

Based on this verse [v14], many people have thought that it is a sin for a man to wear long hair, or at least hair that is considered long by the culture. But long hair in itself can be no sin; after all, Paul apparently had long hair for a time in Corinth as a part of a vow [Acts 18:18]. But the vow would not have meant anything if long hair was the norm; that's what Paul is getting at. [Guzik]

- **Nazarite vow:** Long hair symbolized willingness to bear shame for God's Name
- **Jesus was a Nazarene not a Nazarite.** Jesus never had long hair

God sees the heart: **Q.** Are long hair/earrings/tattoos an act of rebellion for you? Are you seeking your identity in something other than Jesus? Can you do it knowing God approves. What are your motives, that's what matters. The heart. [NJC]

16 But **if anyone seems to be contentious**, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

- **Contentious:** gr. *fil-on'-i-kos*. Lit Fond of strife
- IOW's Head covering is not a Salvation issue but an *issue of the heart*..

Paul concludes by saying that the church ought not to make rules in connection with the matter of woman's dress or men's hair. The really important issue is the *matter of the inner man*. It is the old nature that needs a haircut and the robe of righteousness. My friend, if we are clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness and if our old nature is under the control of the Holy Spirit, that will take care of the outer man. [JV McGee]

Segway slowly ascends from the dusty streets of Corinth  
To the Holy Upper Ground of the LORD's Supper

## II. Conduct at the Lord's Supper

17 Now **in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse.** 18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are **divisions** among you, and in part I believe it. 19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized [Manifest/Made evident] among you. 20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. 21 For in eating, each **one takes his own supper ahead of others;** and one is hungry and **another is drunk.**

Love Feast followed by the LORD's Supper every night  
What should have been beautiful was getting ugly

- You come together to solidify divisions
- You come together to satisfy selfish fleshly desires

**1 Corinthians 1:12b...** each of you says, "I am of Paul,"... or "I am of Apollos..."

**1 Corinthians 3:1** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 3 ...for you are still carnal.** For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving **like mere men?**

Dragging these selfish/sinful attitudes into the LORD's Supper  
Divisions/Desires/Factions...

- Does God use Factions? A. Uses all things...
  1. What Satan means for evil God uses for good
  2. E.g. Factions reveal/squeeze out those who are not of us
  3. IOWs Birds of a feather will flock together/Heresies will be exposed...

**2 Peter 2:13 ...** [These] ...will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to **carouse in the daytime.** They are **spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you...**

**Jude 12** These are **spots in your love feasts,** while **they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves.**

Point vv 17-22? When you come together selfishly/arrogantly  
It is impossible to take the LORD's supper in a worthy manner

You come together to solidify divisions  
You come together to satisfy selfish fleshly desires. Some are drunk/Some are hungry?

**22 What!** Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you **despise the church of God** and **shame those who have nothing?** What shall I say to you? **Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.**

- **I do not praise you 3X** vv 17-22

### **III. Institution of the Lord's Supper**

**23** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you:

Paul had given them instructions for the LORD's Supper

- **Instructions he received from the Lord**
  1. Firsthand revelation?
  2. Luke's writings?
  3. Other Apostles?

Ultimately it was from the Lord Jesus that Paul received instructions...

**23b ...**that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed **took bread;** 24 and when He had **given thanks, He broke** it and said, "Take, eat; this is My **body** which is **broken for you;** do this in remembrance of Me." 25

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood."

Only God Himself could institute a New Covenant making the Old Covenant obsolete  
No man. No angel. Only God could do that. Jesus the Word made flesh to die for  
our sin

**25b** ...This do, as often as you drink it, **in remembrance of Me.**" 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

We are nowhere commanded to celebrate Jesus Birthday  
We are commanded to observe/remember His Death/Resurrection

#### IV. Examine Yourself

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an **unworthy manner** will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

**Matthew 26:22** [One of you will betray Me] And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "**Lord, is it I?**"

**2 Corinthians 13:5** **Examine yourselves** as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

- *Unworthy manner* omitted from some manuscripts

Not that *we are* worthy/unworthy  
But are we coming to Communion in a worthy/unworthy manner?

The idea is not to keep people away from the table of communion, but to prepare them to receive it in the right way. [Guzik]

29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks **judgment** to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep [lit. die].

- 1 John 5:16: Sin leading to death
- E.g. Acts 5: Ananias/Saphira.

Apparently, a believer can sin to the point where God believes it is just best to **bring them home**, probably because they have in some way compromised their testimony so significantly that they should just come on home to God. [Guzik]

31 For if we would **judge ourselves**, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are **chastened by the Lord**, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Judgment begins with the house of God

**Psalm 32:5** I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Examine yourself and what you are about to do. It should be beautiful not selfish
- Paul sighs...

**33** Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, **wait for one another.** **34** But if anyone is hungry, **let him eat at home,** lest you come together for judgment. And **the rest I will set in order when I come.**