

# The Hierarchy of Headship

## 1 Corinthians 11:3-16

### I. Intro

- Anecdote

- Questions

- Was Paul a misogynist who made it his aim to silence female believers?
  - Or - was Paul's Patriarchal perspective - based on God's plan for mankind?
    - If you ask a modern day feminist - Paul was a male chauvinist-pig who was guilty of promoting a pejorative image of women...
    - ...and as a result - the church has treated female believers as second class Christians for the last 2000 years.
    - And while it's true that Paul presented a patriarchal hierarchy in his epistles...
      - ...it's also true that this Hierarchy of Headship that offends so many feminists - is actually based on God's perfect plan.

- Hierarchy

- For the sake of clarity - it'll help you to know that - the word - Hierarchy - in the context of the Christian church...
  - ...refers to a general system of church government that ranks leaders into various levels of authority.
  - And according to Paul - this hierarchy is rooted in a divine Patriarchy - that begins with the authority of God the Father.
  - As a matter of fact - the word - Patriarchy - literally means "the rule of the father".

- And as we consider how all authority originates with God the Father...
  - ...then - we shouldn't be surprised to learn that - God has established the rule of the Father...
  - ...according to the Hierarchy of Headship that He ordained over His Creation .
- Abuse
  - With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 11.
  - And as we make our way to the 11th chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to point out that...
    - ...there have been many throughout the ages - who have misunderstood - and misrepresented the Hierarchy of Headship.
    - For example - there have been many Christian men throughout the ages - who have abused their authority...
      - ...by using the epistles of Paul - as an excuse for why they treat female believers as second class Christians.
    - At the same time - there have been many women in the church - who have misrepresented the instructions of Paul...
      - ...by interpreting the Hierarchy of Headship - according to the false doctrines of feminism.

## II. Headship

- Set up
  - Master Builder
    - Without debate - this is one of the most controversial subjects - found in our sacred scriptures.

- And one reason why is because - there are many in the church today - who fail to grasp the Patriarchal perspective of Paul.
- That being the case - I should take a moment to remind you that - the Lord was the One Who appointed Paul to become the wise master builder...
- ...who was ordained to establish the doctrinal foundation of the church.
- And with that being the case - we should take this into consideration - as we study the controversial verses - before us this morning.
- With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians 11 - where we find Paul presenting the Hierarchy of Headship.
  - Look with me - beginning there at verse 3 - where he declared...

● Text

1Co 11:3 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.

1Co 11:4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head.

1Co 11:5 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.

1Co 11:6 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.

1Co 11:7 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.

1Co 11:8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man.

1Co 11:9 Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.

1Co 11:10 For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

1Co 11:11 Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord.

1Co 11:12 For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.

1Co 11:13 Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?

1Co 11:14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?

1Co 11:15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.

1Co 11:16 But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

- Culture

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...

- ...the Lord has established a Hierarchy of Headship - which is based on His predetermined patriarchal plan.

- And while I realize that the concept of the patriarchy has become offensive here in 21st century America...

- ...it's important for us to remember that - Christians haven't been called to take our cues from current cultural trends - or feminist ideologies.

- No - instead - we've been called to align our lives - to the truth of God's word...

- ...so that we can become those believers - who are accomplishing our calling in Christ.

- And with this as our goal - we should consider the Hierarchy of Headship that Paul presented - here in our text today.

- Headship

- With this as our focus - let's back up and begin reading again - there at verse 3 - it's there where Paul declared...

1Co 11:3 ...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.

- As we take a closer look at this verse - it'll help you to know that - the word - head - which is found in this verse - three times...
- ...it's translated from a Greek word - which was used in reference to the summit of something - or - the top of the heap.
- The same word was used metaphorically - to a person of prominence - like a master or a lord - - to whom other people are subordinate.
- And in the context of this verse - Paul was using this word - in order to identify the top-down hierarchy of headship...
  - ...that our Creator established in the garden of Eden.

- Creation

- In order to explain what I mean - I should remind you that - it was there in the Garden of Eden - where God created Adam from the dust of the Earth.
- It's in Genesis chapter 2 - verse 7 - where Moses tells us that...

Gen 2:7 ...the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

- From this - we can see that - God didn't select an ancient hominin and then call him Adam.
- No - instead - God specially formed Adam from the dust of the ground.
- It was at that moment - on the 6th day of Creation - when God created Adam - to serve as an image bearer of God.
- I should also remind you that there came a day when the Lord provided Adam with a helper - who was comparable to him.
  - And it's for this reason that our Creator made Adam's wife - Eve - from a rib that He took from Adam.

- Eve

- It's in Genesis chapter 2 - beginning at verse 21 - where Moses declared...

Gen 2:21 ...the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

Gen 2:22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

Gen 2:23 And Adam said:

“This is now bone of my bones

And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man.”

- Here in Moses' account - we learn about the day when the Lord created Eve - from a rib that He took from Adam's side.
  - And while we can't say for sure how much time transpired - between the day when God created Adam - and the day when He created Eve...
    - ...what we do know is that Adam was created first - and then Eve.
      - Not only that - but Eve was also created to become a helper - who was compatible - and comparable with Adam.
        - In this way - the Lord used Adam and Eve - to establish the Hierarchy of Headship for the rest of mankind.
  - God
    - With this as our focus let's consider again how Paul put it - here in our text today - look with me again - there at verse 3 - where he declared...
 

1Co 11:3 ...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.

      - Now - as we consider the Hierarchy that Paul was presenting here in this verse - it might help us to put this into it's proper order.

- From top down - we see that God is the head of Christ - Christ is the head of Man - and Man is the head of Woman.
- Now - remember - that word - head - was used to distinguish those who are superior - from those who are subordinate.
  - And so - when Paul informed us that the head of Christ is God...
    - ...he was actually helping his audience to understand that Christ Jesus is subordinate to God the Father.
- Equal
  - Now - just to be clear - it's important to understand that - the deity of Jesus Christ is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father - and the Holy Spirit.
  - And so - we shouldn't make the mistake of thinking that our Savior's subordination to God the Father...
    - ...has somehow robbed Him of the glory He had with the Father - before the incarnation.
    - No - instead - Jesus willingly set aside His glory - so that He could accomplish the will of the Father.
    - And so - while the deity of the Lord Jesus is eternally equal with God the Father...
      - ...our Savior submit Himself to the will of the Father - according to the Hierarchy of Headship.
- Man
  - And while it's true that God the Father is the Head of Christ - it's also true that Christ is the Head of man.
  - Now - what does this mean - that Christ is the Head of man?
    - Well - in order to answer this question - I should take a moment to remind you that - Christ Jesus is the head of His church.

- And just to be clear - the church is the mystical body of Christ - - and therefore Jesus is the head of His mystical body.
- At the same time - the Lord Jesus is the chief Shepherd of His flock - and as the chief Shepherd of His flock...
  - ...He is also the One Who appoints the MEN He chooses to serve as the sub-shepherd of each flock - individually.

- Pastor

- Proof of my point can be found in the pastoral epistle of 1st Timothy - - it's in the beginning of chapter 3 - where Paul declared...

1Ti 3:1        This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

1Ti 3:2a       A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife...

- Now - that word - bishop - is synonymous with the position of pastor.
- And it's here in this pastoral epistle - where Paul informed pastor Timothy...
  - ...that those who desire the position of a bishop - must be the husband of one wife.
  - What this means is that - the position of pastor is a gender specific role - intended for the men whom the Chief Shepherd chooses.
    - In this way - Jesus ordains the hierarchy of headship of the church with the men He appoints to pastor each flock.

- Families

- At the same time - the head of the church has also established a hierarchy of headship - over every family.
- Let's consider how Paul put it - in Ephesians chapter 5 - it's beginning at verse 22 - where He declared...

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Eph 5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

- So Christ - Who is the head of the church - has also established a hierarchy - which places men as the head of their wives.
- The Lord Jesus even went as far as presenting a parallel - between His headship over His church...
- ...and the husband's headship over his wife - who has been called to yield in cooperation - by respecting her spouse.
- Here's how Paul summed it up in the final verses of Ephesians 5 - where he declared...

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- Offended
- Now - listen ladies - before you take issue with this Hierarchy of Headship - I should take a moment to remind you that...
- ...the Lord Jesus humbled Himself - in order to yield in cooperation with God the Father.
- And listen - Christ's decision to yield in cooperation to His Heavenly Father - didn't diminish His infinite deity.
- No - instead - the Lord Jesus ended up receiving all authority in Heaven and Earth - after His death - burial - and resurrection.

- And as we consider how this factors into the hierarchy of headship - it would be foolish for us to think that...
- ...it's God plan to diminish women - simply because He made men to function as the head of women.
- No - instead - God has His righteous reasons - for why He ordered things in this way.

### ● Transition

### • Points

- Now - this brings us to our first supporting point - which is this...

#### 1. The Hierarchy of Headship will help us to walk in Dignity.

- In order to make my case - let's turn our attention - back the point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 11.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 3 - where Paul declared...

## III. Dignity

### ● Text

1Co 11:3 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.

1Co 11:4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head.

1Co 11:5 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.

1Co 11:6 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.

1Co 11:7 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.

- Difference

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
- ...there is a difference in the way that men and women should pray - and prophesy.
- And while it true that Christian men and women - both have the spiritual ability to pray - and prophesy...
- ...it's also true that the Hierarchy of Headship creates a gender specific distinction - in the way we serve our Savior.
  - And this gender specific distinction is clearly demonstrated with a head covering.
- Man
  - Notice with me again - there in verse 4 - where we learn that...
 

1Co 11:4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head.
  - Now - that word - dishonor - was used of those who are put to shame.
  - What this means is that - it was shameful for a man to pray - or prophesy - while wearing a head covering.
  - Prayer is the way we talk to God - while prophecy refers to the way we present people with the word of God.
  - And when it comes to the hierarchy of headship - the Lord has determined the it is undignified...
    - ...for male believers to pray and prophesy - while wearing a head covering.
- Woman

- At the same time - the Lord has also determined that it is undignified for a female believer to pray and prophesy - without a head covering.
- Let's consider again how he put it here in 1st Corinthians 11 - look with me again - there at verse 5 - where Paul declared...

1Co 11:5 ...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.

1Co 11:6 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.

- Now - we should notice that - Paul wasn't telling women that it was wrong for them to pray and prophesy.
  - No - instead - he was helping them to understand that it was shameful for them to pray and prophesy - without a head covering.
  - Now - I should take a moment to point out that - there are two main views - about the head covering that Paul was referring to.
    - Some believe that he was referring to a shawl upon the head - or a veil that covered the face.
    - Others insist that Paul was referring to a woman's hair - and more specifically - the acceptable length of her hair.

- Shameful

- One reason for embracing the second view is found there in verse 15 - where Paul declared...

1Co 11:15 ...if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.

- From this - we can see that a woman's hair can be considered as her covering.
  - But - regardless of whether Paul was referring to a shawl - or to a woman's long hair...

- ...the fact remains the same - - it's shameful for a woman to pray and prophesy - with an uncovered head.
- And at the same time - it is also shameful for men - to pray and prophesy - with an covered head.
- That being the case - our dignity as disciples - is directly connected to the hierarchy of headship.

- Dignity

- This was precisely the point that Paul was making - there in verse 7 - where he declared...

1Co 11:7 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.

- Now - that word - glory - was translated from a Greek word - which can also be rendered - dignity.
- And seeing how Adam was created in the image of God - in order to reflect His dignity - then - we shouldn't be surprised to learn that...
- ...the man who prays and prophesies with a covered head - is failing to reflect the dignity of our Creator.
- And since Eve was created for the glory of Adam - - then - the woman who prays and prophesies with an uncovered head...
- ...is also failing to reflect the dignity of God - according to the hierarchy of headship.

- Application

- Specific

- Christian - listen - those who attempt to convince us that - there is no difference between male - and female believers...

- ...are failing to realize that - the Lord has called Christian women to pray to Him - with covered heads.
- And at the same time - the Lord has called Christian men to pray to Him with uncovered heads.
- And according to Paul - our dignity as the disciples of Christ - is directly connected to this command...
  - ...which is based on the hierarchy of headship that helps us to understand that...
    - ...God the Father is the head of Christ - Christ is the head of man - and man is the head of woman.

#### ● Transition

#### • Points

- Now - this brings us to our second supporting point - because listen...
  1. The Hierarchy of Headship will not only help us to walk in Dignity...
  2. ...but - the Hierarchy of Headship also helps us to submit to Authority.
    - In order to make my case - let's turn our attention - back the point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 11.
    - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 8 - where Paul declared...

### IV. Authority

#### ● Text

- 1Co 11:8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man.  
 1Co 11:9 Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.  
 1Co 11:10 For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

- Helper
  - Here in these verses - we find Paul - reminding his readers - that Adam wasn't created - from the rib of Eve...
  - ...no - instead - Eve was formed from the rib bone of Adam.
  - Not only that - but - Adam wasn't created - to serve as a helper for Eve...
  - ...no - instead - Eve was created to be a helper who was comparable to Adam.
  - In this way - the Lord was the One Who established the hierarchy of headship - according to the order of Creation.
    - And it's for this reason that women have been called to wear a symbol of authority.

- Authority

- I like the way that the scholars who created the New Living Translation rendered these verses - they put it like this...

1Co 11:8 For the first man didn't come from woman, but the first woman came from man.

1Co 11:9 And man was not made for woman, but woman was made for man.

1Co 11:10 For this reason, and because the angels are watching, a woman should wear a covering on her head to show she is under authority.

- Now - that word - authority - found there at the end of verse 10 - was translated from a Greek word...
- ...was was used in reference to the power - possessed by those whose will - and commands - must be obeyed.
- And according to Thayer's - the symbol of authority worn by women - was a sign of her husband's authority over her.

- And listen - regardless of whether we're talking about a veil - or the covering of her hair...
  - ...Paul also informed us that this symbol of authority was because the angels who are watching.
- Angels?
- Now - I must confess that - I don't really understand how the angels factor in to this equation.
  - It's possible that this points back to the days of Noah - when the fallen angels took wives from the daughters of men.
    - And so - it's possible that this symbol of authority - was designed to remind the angels - about their proper domain.
  - It's also possible that Paul was presenting a parallel - between the angelic beings who have been placed into a hierarchy of authority...
    - ...and the hierarchy of headship that the Lord created for mankind.
    - Either way - the head covering worn by women - was a symbol of authority - according to the hierarchy of headship.
- Pastor
- With this in mind - we should consider the point that Paul was making - in 1 Timothy chapter 2 - it's beginning at verse 8 where Paul declared...
- 1Ti 2:8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;
- 1Ti 2:9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,
- 1Ti 2:10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.
- 1Ti 2:11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.

1Ti 2:12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.

1Ti 2:13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

1Ti 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

- Here in this Pastoral epistle - we find Paul - helping pastor Timothy to understand that...
  - ...it was his job as pastor - to help his congregation to understand the hierarchy of headship.
  - With this as the goal - it was also his job as pastor - to help the women in his church to realize that...
    - ...the men in the church were called to accomplish their calling - according to the delegated authority of Christ.
    - At the same time - the women were called to profess godliness - with good works - without usurping the authority of the pastor.
- Everyone
  - Now - before you get bent out of shape - we should consider how the apostle Peter elaborated on the importance of authority.
  - It's in 1st Peter chapter 5 - beginning at verse 1 - where the apostle Peter declared...

1Pe 5:1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

1Pe 5:2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

1Pe 5:3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

1Pe 5:4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

1Pe 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

- As we consider the point that Peter was making - there should be no doubt that - we've all been called to submit to authority.
- The pastor of the church has been called to submit to the authority of the Chief Shepherd - Jesus.
- The sheep of God's flock have been called to submit to the delegated authority of the pastor.
- And we've all been called to submit to one another - according to the hierarchy of headship.
- And listen - God rejects those who are too proud to submit to His authority - according to the Hierarchy of Headship.

## ● Transition

### • Points

- Now - this brings us to our third supporting point - because listen...
  1. The Hierarchy of Headship not only helps us to walk in Dignity...
  2. ...and - the Hierarchy of Headship not only helps us to submit to Authority...
  3. ...but - the Hierarchy of Headship also helps us to embrace our Equality.
- In order to explain my point - let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 11.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 11 - where Paul declared...

## V. Equality

- Text

1Co 11:11 Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord.

1Co 11:12 For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.

- Independent

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - reminding his readers about the equality of procreation.
- And while it's true that God created Eve - from the rib bone of Adam...
- ...it's also true that God's plan for procreation - includes both the husband - and the wife.
- What this means is that - the Hierarchy of Headship includes equality - which is based on the fact that...
- ...every person after Adam - - has a mother who was instrumental in their fetal development.
- And yeah - this includes every man - who has received the delegated authority of Christ.

- Trinity

- Now - you might be wondering - how can there be true equality between men and women - in the context of the Hierarchy of Headship?
- In order to answer this question - I should take a moment to remind you that there is divine equality within the Godhead.
- God the Father - God the Son - and God the Holy Spirit are co-equal and co-eternal.
- At the same time - God the Father is the head of the incarnate Son of God - according to the hierarchy of headship.

- And while I'm sure we all recognize that this is a conundrum - which isn't easily understood...
  - ...the fact remains the same - - there is perfect equality within the Godhead...
  - ...and at the same time - God the Father is the head - of His only begotten Son.
- Equality
    - In light of this example - we can see that - there can be equality - - within the context of hierarchy.
    - And that's most certainly the case - when it comes to the relationship between husband and wife.
    - According to the hierarchy of headship - the husband is the head of his wife.
    - At the same time - the husband and wife are equally important - in the process of procreation.
      - And not only that - but - there is also equality within the context of this hierarchy - according to God's plan for woman - and man.
- Complementarianism
    - I like the way that the authors of the Danvers Statement explained it - in the first two affirmations of their position.
    - Here's how they put it...
      1. Both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood.
      2. Distinctions in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order, and should find an echo in every human heart.

- Here in the first two affirmations of this statement - which provides the framework for Complementarianism...
- ...we find a Biblical explanation for the way that God created equality in the context of hierarchy.
- According to God's design - men and women are created equal - with distinctly different roles.

## ● Application

### • Sports

- Let's think about it in the context of a sports ball team - like football.
- There are 53 men - that fill the active roster of an NFL football team.
- And yet - only 11 players are on the field at any one time - while the rest of the team is sitting on the bench.
- And while some of the players will be highly celebrated for the way they secure the victory for their team...
- ...others will only play supportive roles - according to their position.
- And yet - all the players are equally important - despite the difference in their positions.

### • Equality

- In similar fashion - the husband and wife are equally important members of the marital team - - while both occupy a different position.
- And listen - the same is true in the context of the Christian church.
- Every church is made up of many members - who are called to accomplish their calling in Christ.

- Some ministry positions are more visible - while others are behind the scenes.
- Some Christians are called to exercise authority - like the senior pastor...
  - ...while others are called to play a supportive role - as they yield in cooperation - according to the hierarchy of headship.
  - And yet - every Christian is still equal - at the foot of the cross.

## ● Transition

### • Points

- Now - this brings us to our fourth point - because listen...

1. The Hierarchy of Headship not only helps us to walk in Dignity...

2. ...submit to Authority...

3. ...and embrace our Equality...

4. ...but - the Hierarchy of Headship also helps us to accept our Identity.

- In order to make my case - let's turn our attention - back the point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 11.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 13 - where Paul declared...

## VI. Identity

### ● Text

1Co 11:13 Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?

1Co 11:14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?

1Co 11:15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.

1Co 11:16 But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

- Judge

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - driving home the point that he was making - which is simply this...
- ...men and women should judge with righteous judgement - concerning the proper way for both genders - to pray and prophesy.
- And seeing how Paul was primarily focused on the proper way for women to pray...
- ...then - the chances are - there was some sort of controversy happening at the church in Corinth...
- ...which led Paul to present this imperative command - to judge among themselves.
  - Or - in other words - he was calling them to make a decision - based on the hierarchy of Headship.

- Nature

- In order to further make his point - Paul then presented an ontological argument - by appealing to the natural order of things.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 14 - where Paul asked...

1Co 11:14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?

1Co 11:15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.

- In order to understand Paul's point - it'll help you to know that the word - nature - found there in verse 14...

- ...was translated from the Greek word - Physis - which is the root of our English word - physiology.
- And while Physiology is a branch of biology that deals with the functions and activities of life or of living matter...
  - ...the root word - Physis - refers to the nature of things - including the innate properties and powers...
  - ...by which one person differs from others - for example - the way that men are physiologically different from women.
- Distinction
  - Now - I realize that this has become a highly controversial topic - as more and more people buy into the belief...
  - ...that a person's gender is different from their sexual orientation.
  - Then there are those who take it a step further - by seeking treatments - like puberty blockers - and surgeries...
  - ...in order to align their gender - to their perceived sexual orientation.
  - Sadly - what they fail to realize is that - you can block the natural process of puberty - and you can have endless surgeries...
  - ...and yet - at the end of the day - you still have the same chromosomes - which identify your gender.
    - Those who are born male - will still have XY chromosomes - and those who are born female will still have XX chromosomes.
- Identity
  - With that being the case - I can assure you that God didn't make a mistake - when He formed us in the womb of our mothers.

- And as we consider the hierarchy of headship that God the Father has ordained for all of mankind...
- ...we will all do well to embrace our gender identity - according to the genetics of our Chromosomes.
- If you have XY chromosomes - then you are by nature a male - - and you should approach God accordingly.
- And if you have XX chromosomes - then you are by nature a female - and you should approach God accordingly.
- And listen - those who attempt to alter their identity - with puberty blockers and/or surgeries...
  - ...are failing to accept God's plan for their lives.
- Custom
  - This brings us to the final point that Paul was making - here in our text today look with me again - there at verse 16 - where Paul declared...
 

1Co 11:16 But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.
  - Here in this verse - we find Paul - creating space for Christians - who don't have a head covering custom.
  - And so - when it comes to the cultural custom of women wearing a shawl - or a veil - - this isn't something for Christians to argue about.
  - Remember - it was there in verse 15 - where we learn that the Lord has given women their hair - to function as a covering.
  - And at the end of the day - - Paul's point has less to do with the symbol of the head covering...
    - ...and it has more to do with the hierarchy of headship that God has ordained.

- Application
  - With all of this in mind - I want to conclude our study today by asking - - are you praying - and prophesying - according to the Hierarchy of Headship?
  - Or - are you attempting to serve our Savior Jesus - according to your own personal plan?
  - Are you submitting to the Lord - according to the nature of your identity?
    - Or - are you ignoring the hierarchy of headship - - because you've embraced the unbiblical perspective...
    - ...of those who would have us to believe that - God's plan should be rejected - because - it's too antiquated.
    - Please trust me when I tell you that - we don't know better than God.
      - And it's for this reason that we should embrace His Hierarchy of Headship.

## VII. Conclusion

- Wrap up
  - Points
    - With this as the goal - I should remind you that...
      1. The Hierarchy of Headship helps us to walk in Dignity...
      2. The Hierarchy of Headship helps us to submit to Authority...
      3. The Hierarchy of Headship helps us embrace our Equality...
      4. The Hierarchy of Headship helps us to accept our Identity...
    - To sum it up with simplicity - the Hierarchy of Headship was ordained by God - for the benefit of every believer.

- And listen - those who will abide by this Hierarchy - will enjoy the benefits of headship...
- ...that God the Father has promised to pour out - on those who will submit to the Head of the Church...
- ...our Shepherd - and Savior - Jesus Christ.