

1 Corinthians 11:2-16
“The Holiness of the Separate”
March 10, 2024

V. 2 The Apostle Paul began this section of gentle correction with a praise. One of the traditions that he had to have delivered to them was the equality in nature of all believers; see **Gal 3:28**.

V. 3-5 Three self-evident truths:

1. Man (Gr *aner*) an adult human male; man; husband
2. Woman (Gr *gynē*) an adult human female; woman; wife
3. God: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
Genesis 1:1

We cannot allow the spirit of the age to intimidate us from stating the self-evident.

It’s obvious that the women played a vital part in the corporate worship of the local church in Corinth.

Equality in nature does not preclude a difference in position. The Godhead itself demonstrates a difference in position; the world did not need two Saviors, and if there were two Fathers then who would die to save humanity?

V. 6 In the culture of the day, there existed a distinction in the way men dressed and wore their hair, and the way women dressed and wore their hair, and some of the women in this church had cast aside those differences and were presenting themselves as men, metaphorically speaking, and this had obliterated the distinction between the two that God actually wanted them to acknowledge in a demonstrable way.

Vv. 7-9 See **Gen 2:18-23**. God created man in the absence of the woman, but He did not create woman in the absence of the man.
“for the . . . sake” *on account of; because of*

V. 10 See Isaiah 6:1,2 LXX “covered” Gr *katakalypto*, same as 1 Cor 11

Vv. 11,12 The relationship between the man and the woman is one of interdependence, not independence.

Vv. 13-15 An argument from nature; “covering” = item of clothing; not *katakalypto*; It does not appear that Paul is saying that the woman’s hair itself is the covering to which he is referring.

Applications for us in 2024 in America:

1. *The limitations of legalism.*

Romans 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Thes 5:26; 1 Peter 5: 14.
On culturally specific situations, we look for a morally equivalent behavior which fulfills the spirit of the commandment.

2. *The strength of the woman is different from the strength of the man.*
See **11:10** “authority” capability, might, power
A woman’s capability, in cooperation with her Creator, is not measured on the male metric of power, but on the female metric.

3. *The sacredness of life is held in humility.*
See **1 Cor 15:45** and **Gen 3:20** Both sources of life, Jesus and the woman, exist, in position, under a headship.

4. *Womanhood is an honored position.*
Ephesians 5:23-27 In parallel with the church, the woman and the bride of Christ exist, in position, under a headship. Christ gave His life for His bride the church, and the husband is called upon to give his life for his bride. Holy things demand a covering.

5. *Advice for the unmarried:* Woman, do not marry a man whom you do not respect and revere enough to submit to his headship in the home and in the church; man, do not marry a woman if you simply think God created woman to be a plaything or a servant; you are not yet ready for an interdependent relationship that requires self-sacrifice.

6. *God is asking the woman, and the man, to demonstrate to the world, through the church, His created order.*
1 Cor 11:13 Judge for yourselves: is it proper...?

Our responsibility is propriety in demonstrating a morally equivalent behavior within the fellowship of the church. See **1 Peter 3:1-4**; God is always more interested in the heart than in the outward appearance; He is asking both the man, and the woman, “Do you believe My Word?”