“THE HEADSHIP”

1 Cor 11:2-16

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

3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.

9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

KJV

INTRODUCTION:

These important verses are not just about “The Hair question,” as some express it. Hair of men and women are discussed in these verses, but there is more to be learned from this text. We live in a society that has in many cases attempted to obliterate the distinction of the sexes. God created two sexes to inhabit this world. He cast them in different roles, and distinguished them in their appearance. The “UNISEX MOVEMENT” IS NOT FROM GOD. Men and women are the opposite sex. God intended they dress differently and their hair would be also be a mark of their distinction. Under the law of Moses they were to dress differently:

Deut 22:5

The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.

KJV (Loathsome, or destable)

**Today we live in a world that has attempted to erase sexual distinction**. We have the LBGT community who has contributed to this confusion. Some have undergone sex changes, because they were not satisfied with the sex that God made them. We have the TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY. Prince Harry and his wife Megan said, that they would later allow their child to choose his on sexual identity. In our immoral environment we live in a time of same sex marriages. Children are being adopted by same sex couples. There is the breakdown of the home and marriage as God designed it. What does this have to do with our present subject?

The “HEADSHIP’ that God has ordained is a problem for some. Many rebel against God’s divine arrangement, but this in no way altars what God has ordained. The Feminist movement has attempted to make shambles of God’s plan, but still it stands. God has cast men and women in particular roles and our rebelling against God’s Word will not alter it one bit. The teachings in these verses are predicated on the headship which God established in the very beginning.

Before beginning a study of these verses I would like to consider some things that will help condition our minds to receive this teaching.

1. **To please God our attitude must be one of humility and submission. Jesus says that we must humble ourselves as a little child.**

Matt 18:1-4

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

KJV

1. Little children love to please their parents.
2. We should love to please God.

James 4:6

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

KJV

1. We should always regard God’s Word as final authority.
2. God’s word sometimes presents us with a test to try our faith. Obedience to His word will sometimes put us in conflict with modern thinking. We may not always be fashionable, but we can be faithful.
3. THE HEADSHIP PRESENTED
4. Paul begins by praising these Christian for keeping the ordinances as he had instructed them.

1 Cor 11:2

Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

KJV

1. The word, “ordinances” Is rendered “traditions” in some translations. Apostolic traditions are binding, because that are by the authority of God. They are not the mere traditions of men. The KJV renders the word “Ordinances.”
2. Let us look at the “Headship.”

1 Cor 11:3

3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

KJV

1. God
2. Christ---Submissive to God
3. Man----submissive to Christ
4. Woman----submissive to Man
5. WOMAN’S PLACE IN THIS ORDER IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE. Is God’s order in tact today? Men and women have attempted to make shambles of it.
6. Nothing new to the Bible student.
7. Consider the following text:

Gen 3:16

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, **and he shall rule over thee.**

KJV

1 Tim 2:12

But I suffer not a woman to teach, **nor to usurp authority over the man**, but to be in silence.

KJV

1 Cor 14:34

Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. **(The law from Genesis)**

KJV

Titus 2:4-5 (The Older Women)

That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, **obedient to their own husbands**, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

KJV

Eph 5:24

Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, **so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.**

KJV

1 Peter 3:5-6 **(A Meek and Quiet spirit, V.4)**

For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, **being in subjection unto their own husbands:**

6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

KJV

Do you wonder what the word “lord” means in this place? It is from the Greek, “Kurios” which has a basic meaning of one who is supreme in authority. (Strong’s Gr. Dict. Of the NT.} The same word is used of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do not imply here that the woman must call her husband “Lord.” But she must certainly acknowledge him as being superior in authority.

1. THREE THINGS ARE BROUGHT FORTH IN THESE VERSES, (1 Cor 11:3-10.)
2. Authority
3. Recognition of Authority
4. The sign or token signifying recognition of higher authority.
5. As a man, I must recognize my position in this arrangement, and respect the authority of Christ.
6. Praying or Prophesying.

1 Cor 11:4

Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

KJV

It is a sin for me to pray, or teach with my physical head covered for in so doing I sin by dishonoring by spiritual head who is Christ. **(What a terrible offence)**

1. To come to God in prayer I must come through my spiritual head, Christ.

Col 3:17

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

KJV

1. Now consider the situation. When a man prays he can pray directly through his head who is Christ, as he is immediately beneath Him in the line of authority.
2. To pray with his physical head covered would dishonor his spiritual head, Christ, and hinder his prayer from being acceptable.

B. What about the Woman’s prayer?

1 Cor 11:5

But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

KJV (She can only teach in a private situation)

1. What is true of the man, the opposite is true of the woman.
2. If her physical head is uncovered, then she dishonors her head who is man.
3. There is seemingly a dilemma presented to her. She cannot pray through her head of authority to God, **for her head of authority is the man.** What is to be done? We may be sure that God does not intend to allow her to ignore her position of authority. Yet if she prays through the man, she would certainly place him in a bad position. He would be dishonored by assuming such a lofty place. So, divine wisdom provides a solution. A Christian woman is to have her physical head covered. When she has it so, she shows her recognition of her head of authority, the man. Her prayers then may, apparently, by-pass the man and go through Christ as do man’s. Consequently, the “covering” is absolutely necessary for the woman.
4. To fail to be covered one may as well be shaven.
5. Notice verse 6 in the NIV:

1 Cor 11:6

If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head.

NIV

1. In this verse Paul reasoned from that which was understood. It was considered a ***Disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off***.
2. (An Exception to the rule) A woman may sometimes have to have her head shaved for a medical procedure or surgery. She may lose her hair due to chemotherapy, etc. (That is like missing worship because of sickness, as opposed to missing worship for frivolous reasons).
3. The Reason Man is not to have His Head Covered.

1 Cor 11:7

For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

KJV

1.

Gen 1:26

And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:**

KJV

1. But the woman is the glory of man (1 Cor. 11:7).

Gen 2:22-23

nd the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

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.

KJV

1. In order of creation woman was taken from the side of man.

1 Cor 11:8

For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.

KJV

1. Woman created for the man.

1 Cor 11:9

Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

KJV

1. She is to have “Power” on her head.

1 Cor 11:10

For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

KJV

(V. 10) Translated by the Interlinear Greek-English New Testament by Marshall: “Therefore ought the woman----authority to have on the head because of the angels.” Notice the word “power” is translated “authority.” The matter of authority is very important to us in this study.

Paul outline it in verse three before he really began this teaching.

**BECAUSE OF THE ANGELS.** There are many ideas presented by many scholars as to what this may mean, but we do know that the angels are very much in subjection to the Father. Those who are spoken of as being around His throne, etc., seem totally dependent upon him for authority. Evidently, the Christian woman is to receive a lesson from the angels and not only be in subjection to the man, but show it as well by the sign of authority upon her head.

**Her covering is her badge of subjection**!

1. Consider this passage:

Heb 1:13-14

But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

KJV

1. The angels recognize their position before God. It is certainly inferior to Jesus Christ.
2. The woman should take a lesson from the angels.
3. The man and the woman are dependent upon each other for procreation of the human race.

1 Cor 11:11-12

Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

KJV

1. It should be noted that up to this point the covering has never be named. There has never been a noun used to tell us what the covering is. We have simply been told that a man **must not** have his head covered, and that a woman **must have her head covered.**
2. He sums it up in verse 13 regarding the woman.

1 Cor 11:13

Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

KJV

1 Cor 11:13

Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?

NKJV

LISTEN SISTER, IT EFFECTS YOUR PRAYERS!

II. PAUL IDENTIFIES THE COVERING.

1. His Appeal to Nature.

1 Cor 11:14

**Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?**

**NKJV**

1. In (V. 6) he had pointed out that it was a recognized shame for the woman to have her head shorn or shaven, that she is to be covered.
2. He appeals to the law of nature to show that it is a shame for the man to have long hair. (In the sixties Jerry Ruben said that long hair on the man was a symbol of rebellion against the establishment.)
3. **The Woman’s Covering**

If a woman have long hair----In the Greek text there are two different words used to express the though of hair. The first time it is used, it is the verb form “Komao”Remember that a verb expresses existence, action or occurrence. Thayer, in his Greel-English Lexicon of the New Testament, P 354 says pf the verb (Komao). “To let the hair grow, have long hair.” Bullinger, in a Critical Lexicon and Concordance, P 349 of the same verb has “To let the hair grow, wear long hair, (1 Cor. 11:14-15).” Bauer, Arndt and Gingrich, in a Greek-Lexicon of the N.T. P 443 has “…wear long hair, let one’s hair grow long,” 1 Cor. 11:14-15. The point is that a woman must be letting the hair grow. **This means she must not cut it at all**, since she cannot cut it and let it grow at the same time.

Paul further states that if she lets her hair grow (Komao) it is a “glory” to her. “Glory” is from “Doxa” which means: “To call forth praise to her.

1. Next, the Greek word, “Komee” (a noun) is used which Thayer says denotes hair as an ornament.
2. He says that it is given to her instead of a covering (Peribolian—Veil). This is the only time that the noun for veil is used in this chapter, and then Paul says that the woman’s natural covering (Long hair) is given in place of it.
3. A woman must not remove her natural covering by cutting it. It is given to her as a covering.
4. **She is to let her hair grow, have long hair.**
5. The Nazarite’s Vow illustrates this verb very well.

Num 6:5

All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the Lord, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow. (Komao)

KJV

1. Christian women must let their hair grow in order to have their covering. It is a shame for them to pray to God uncovered. ( 1 Cor. 11:5,6,13).
2. How can a faithful Christian woman allow their little girls to have their hair cut, even if they are not yet members of the church?
3. How can a Christian father whose duty it is to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord allow their little girls to have their hair cut, or their little boys to have long hair?
4. What the man is to do, the woman is not to do. Men are to get haircuts and women are not. **Men are not to allow their hair to grow long, but women are**. What if men just cut off a small snipit of their hair? Will this be acceptable? Would the natural man assume that you had long hair? What does nature teach you?
5. Didn’t Jesus have long hair? All the pictures you see of Jesus show him with long hair. Are we to suppose someone was standing there with a Polaroid Camera taking pictures of Jesus during His tenure on this earth? The pictures are the idea of an artist. No Jesus didn’t have long hair! I have read that in the days of the Roman Empire, in which Jesus lived on the earth, that long hair on men was not the norm.

On top of this, Paul wrote just prior to writing concerning the “Covering,” “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ,” 1 Cor. 11:1. The Apostle was very clear that for a man to have long hair is a shame, (V. 14).

1. Finally, does the statement in (V. 16) negate all of Paul’s teaching in the above verses?

1 Cor 11:16

But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

KJV

1 Cor 11:16

If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice — nor do the churches of God. NIV

Conclusion: A woman must not cut her hair at all, for it is given to her for a covering. A man must not have his head covered by having long hair. For him to so is to dishonor his head, who is Christ. If we have failed in our compliance with these inspired instructions, we must repent and ask for God’s forgiveness. Women must begin to let their hair grow as long as nature will allow. The man must get haircuts. No one should be able to assume that he has long hair by his appearance. Nature demands that a man should not have long hair.