

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 11:2-16

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **AUTHORITY, SUBMISSION & LOVE**

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Discipleship, Fellowship, Obedience, Temptation**

### **So Notorious was the culture at Corinth**

That if you wanted to hurl an insult at someone, you would say – “what a Corinthian”

**It is believed to be the most liberal, decadent and immoral city that the Apostle Paul was known to have visited.**

**As Christians today as well as then – we must keep in mind that we are now “New Creations” in Christ.**

### **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.

**And that - in Heaven There will be no male section and female section. There will be no first class, business or coach –**

### **1 Corinthians 2:9**

But as it is written: “*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man. The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*”

### **2 Corinthians 12:4**

how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which – **it is not lawful** for a man to speak of.

# The LORD forbade Paul to Talk or Speak on the Glories of Heaven

## 1 Corinthians 11

*This passage will deal with the question of headship and subjection. Or "Should Women Wear Hats in Church or the pants at home?"*

*We'll face these issues that are a part of a swirl of controversy that has escalated into the **Feminist Movement** of our day. The apostle introduces this with these words in Chapter 11, Verse 2:*

**Perhaps the most contentious person in our church today will be the one who has lived through the "Feminist Movement of the 60's and 70's and is still in it...**

**Many Sociologists tell us that now looking back over the past 40 years, nothing has been more destructive and damaging to the home, marriage and children than that movement.**

### **I remember being a little guy back then**

and seeing women burning their bras and demanding their rights. **It's funny now cuz after they exercised their rights they had to go to the plastic surgeon to fix their mistakes.**

### **1 Corinthians 11:2-16**

Now I **praise** you, brethren, that you **remember me in all things** and **keep the traditions** just as I delivered them to you. **:3** But 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**. **: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. **: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. **: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. **: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**. **: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. **:16** But if anyone seems to be **contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.**

# AUTHORITY, SUBMISSION & LOVE

## 1.) As seen in Redemption

v.2-7

### 1a.) Authority In the life and purpose of Man

v.2-3a

Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. :3 But I want you to know that the **Head** of every man is **Christ**,

### **There is the declaration of Christ's right**

to lead the whole human race. He is the leader of the human race and ultimately, as Scripture tells us, there will come a day when all humanity, without exception, shall bow the knee and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

#### **Romans 14:11-12**

For it is written: "*As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.*" :12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

#### **Philippians 2:10-11**

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; :11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **The Ordained Station of the Man in Creation**

#### **Ephesians 1:22**

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

The people of the world are expecting to look at a Christian man or a woman and see a person under the leadership, headship, and authority of Jesus Christ.

"he's not going to do this or that, he's a Christian"  
"you can count on him to say this or that, he's a Christian"  
**(submission is what the world should expect from us men)**

**Q: What does this look like today in my culture?**

**A: It looks like this...**

# AS SEEN IN REDEMPTION

## 1b.) Submission In the life and purpose of Woman

v.3b

the **head** of woman is man,

This is not a general statement of women being submissive to any man –  
Rather it is in the context of marriage.

### Ephesians 5:21-23

**Submitting to one another in the fear of God.** :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.

### Ephesians 5:22-25

Wives, submit (*willingly, desiring to*) 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. :25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

## 1c.) Love In the life and purpose of Jesus Christ

v.4-7

and the **head** of **Christ** is **God**.

This introduces us to the doctrine of The Christ. In this the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ came to earth by ‘kenosis’ – that is the willful, calculated, self-determined submission to the Godhead.

### Philippians 2:6-7

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.

**So this is our example to follow.** If Jesus Christ, who is fully God willingly “**became subject**” to The Authority by becoming human for us – then we can “**become subject**” as well.

**John 4:34**

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

The Issue Today Is – Are you willing and able to dethrone yourself from being the authority over your life?

**John 1:1-4, 14**

:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. :2 He was in the beginning with God. :3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. :4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men... :14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

this “covering” or “headship” issue is not forced or required.

It’s an act of loving submission to the one whom you’ve surrendered your life to. it’s a free, self-determinate decision.

: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. :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.

**The Corinthian Temple Prostitutes**

(did not cover their heads but – were able to “morph” into whatever appearance their client desired.

**Q: What does this look like today in my culture?**

**A: It looks like this...**

: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.

**It’s significant** to note that **both** men and women were free to exercise ministry. Both could pray and prophesy.

## Two things are very important to notice here:

(1) The Apostle Paul's concern is the public ministry of the Word of God. He's talking about Christians, about the church, and the gathering of believers together in a public setting. In order to properly function in that capacity, a woman should wear a veil, but a man should not. And this is the second thing (2), the veil comes in as the symbol of the acceptance and understanding of headship which he has just declared. Where public ministry is involved it is just as important that man should not be covered as that a woman should. That was the application of headship in the culture and custom of the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

## AUTHORITY, SUBMISSION & LOVE

### 2.) As seen in Creation

v.8-12

: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. :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.**

**Before there was ever a woman, there was the man Adam.**

#### Genesis 5:2

He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind (Heb. Adam) in the day they were created.

## AS SEEN IN CREATION

### 2a.) Authority by order - of His creation

v.8-9

For man is not from woman, but woman from man. :9 Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.

The creation order is God-engineered and ordained  
For the purposes of God...

#### Genesis 2:7

And 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.

#### Genesis 1:27

So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**Psalm 8:4-6**

What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? :5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. :6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet,

**AS SEEN IN CREATION**

**2b.) Submission and preeminence - in His creation v.10-11**

:10 For this reason the woman ought to have a **symbol of authority** on her head, because of the angels. :11 Nevertheless, neither is man **independent** of woman, nor woman **independent** of man, in the Lord.

**“a symbol of authority” because of the angels.**

A woman, beautiful in spirit is a witness to the angels – certainly. But the meaning is allusive. Some say it is that the Angels are ever-present which is a fact. Is it because they often appear in the presence of God Himself?

**Isaiah 6:1-2**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. :2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he **covered** his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

**At the creation of physical matter – the angels were present.**

**Job 38:6-7**

To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, :7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

**AS SEEN IN CREATION**

**2c.) Love in equality - through His creation v.12**

For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but **all things are from God.**

There Must Be a Head – A Leader Willing and Able and Obedient  
To be the “Forerunner”

### Genesis 2:18-24

And the LORD God said, "*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." :19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was* its name. :20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. :21 And 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. :22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to 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." :24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

## AUTHORITY, SUBMISSION & LOVE

### 3.) As seen in Nature

v.13-16

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

### **A word to the wives** (*or a woman desiring to marry*) **here this morning:**

The Lord has called you as a wife to follow your husband as he (1) prays for you and (2) seeks God for the benefit of the family in spiritual issues, in all areas of providing for you and protecting the home, he's to show vision and forward thinking... all of this in a Christ-centered world, biblically based marriage and home. – so pray for him, encourage him because in the day of judgment, he's going to get his lights punched out by Jesus : )

### 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.

## AS SEEN IN NATURE

### 3a.) Nature displays man's authority

v.13-14

- :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?

**Nowhere in the Bible does it tell us** how long our hair should be. The Bible does say that a man should look and act like a man and a woman, like a woman.

### **In the manners and customs and religious cults**

of the 1<sup>st</sup> century – long hair among men was often a part of their pagan worship requirements. I find it interesting that the cults and occult religions either deify a man into a god or reduce him down to a beast – anything but what is proper.

This is pretty funny stuff here.

Paul is saying “doesn’t a mature, grown man look stupid with long hair?”

### **In The Genetic Code – Nature**

By design, a man has one less gene in his code for hair than a woman. That’s why the ratio of bald men to bald women is not even close.

Comb-overs of a few Long Hairs Doesn’t Work.

**What is it in nature that reveals that a man shouldn’t have long hair?** - The context implies that it is **an adult man**. A man in his maturity looks stupid with long hair.

*A man is to look and act like a man, talk like a man, walk like a man.  
Why? Because God is not confused and He doesn’t author confusion.*

## **AS SEEN IN NATURE**

### **3b.) Nature provides for woman’s submission v.15-16**

:15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering. :16 But ***if*** anyone seems to be **contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.**

Isn’t it true that as a woman gets older – her hair looks glorious – not a man’s.

If an indigenous culture doesn’t stipulate a hair rule – then a woman’s natural hair serves as a symbol of her glory and station in life.

**1 Peter 3:1-4**

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.

**AS SEEN IN NATURE**

**3c.) Nature announces God's love**

**v.16**

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

If anyone wants to fight about rules, requirements and standards – there's no such thing. But responsible liberty governed by love.

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

Whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do,  
you must do all for the glory of God.

**Romans 13:8**

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

\_\_\_\_\_ *End of Study* \_\_\_\_\_

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