

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 - PART 2

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Fellowship, Obedience, Temptation

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 an Authority Seen in Redemption

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**, :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,

AS SEEN IN REDEMPTION

1b.) Submission In the life and purpose of Woman v.3b

the head of woman is man,

This 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 Christ**, The Doctrine of ‘**Kenosis**’ – that is the willful, calculated, self-determined submission within the Godhead.

Philippians 2:6-7

Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it **robbery** (*needing to obtain*) 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. (*humanity*)

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.

There is a profound pattern here to God’s design of;
AUTHORITY, SUBMISSION & LOVE

<<< 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.

It’s significant to note that **both** men and women were free to exercise their 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 **a symbol of the acceptance and understanding of headship** which he has just declared. Where public ministry is involved it is just as important that a man should not be covered as that a woman should be.

That was the application of headship **in that culture and custom of the 1st century.**

!!! The Ministry and Witness of a Godly Marriage !!!

The Witness of Marriage

is summed up in this – it is an agreed upon, unified self-sacrificing love.

AUTHORITY, SUBMISSION & LOVE

2.) As seen in Creation

v.8-12

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 5:2

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

“A Woman” – Is a Man’s Ministry

1 Peter 3:7

In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat her with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. If you don’t treat her as you should, your prayers will not be heard.

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 curious. Some say it is that **the Angels are ever-present** among humans which is a fact. Or is it because **angels are appearing in the presence of God continuously?** – I like that.

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.

For me personally, the greatest of all miracles was not His creation or His death and resurrection – *it was His incarnation !*

Submission and preeminence - in His creation

1 Timothy 3:16

Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He **appeared** (*arrived*) in a human body, was **vindicated** by the Spirit, was **seen** by angels, was **preached** among the nations, was **believed** on in the world, was **taken up** (*left*) in glory.

seen oiptomai optomai, op'-tom-ah-ee; to gaze at with a keen attention. to be wide-eyed and open mouthed. to gawk. to stare at from a distance. to witness the remarkable.

For now – we humans have been subjugated to be lower than the angels. There is a day coming when we shall be promoted even above the angels.

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**” – The **Servant-Leader**

Man’s Fallen Nature has Abused God’s Perfect Order.
In creation – you see no battle between the two genders.

The Abuse Comes from “Religious Man”

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.

I Challenge Anyone Today – Find a Belief System in History that Honors and Exults
and Appeases a Woman like Christianity – you cannot !

Galatians 3:27-28

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ **have put on Christ**. :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.

AUTHORITY, SUBMISSION & LOVE

3.) As seen in Nature

v.13-16

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 1st 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.*

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, 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 :)

AS SEEN IN NATURE

3b.) Nature provides for woman’s submission

v.15-16

:15 But ***if*** a woman has long hair, it’s 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.**

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 speaks 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.

How Does All This Apply to Me Today?

The Issue is manifested by a question.

Am I stubborn and rebellious against the will of God for my life?

How do I handle being under someone else in my work, my life, my family, my ministry, my marriage?

1 Samuel 15:23

For rebellion *is* as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness *is* as iniquity and idolatry.

_____ *End of Study* _____

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