

I Corinthians 11:1-16 What Is Inside Can Show Outside,,, Sometimes 4/27/2025

Intro: Deer hunting, squirrels, corn, and something so wrong.

God is a God of orderliness, symmetry and coordinated flow; purposeful function. Sin disrupts this at times. I Cor. 14:33

It is important to respect and promote the things that God has placed in order. Romans 12:17

Text Intro: In the next few chapters, Paul is again answering questions sent to him by the Corinthian church.

1. The unveiling of a woman's head in public worship
2. The Lord's supper
3. And the exercise of spiritual gifts.

Question: What is the best way to worship and honor God when men and women come together on Sunday ? Does our outward appearance have any bearing on worship?

Dress traditions of the 1st century world.

Jewish men did not cover their heads, like you see today, until the 2nd century A.D.

Jewish women covered their hair for modesty's sake, and to show their marital status in the 1st century. (Think of the wedding ring.) Single Jewish women usually did not cover the head, except at worship. A lot of variation on this through the ages in the Jewish community.

Greek men and women worshipped their gods with head **uncovered** in the first century.

Roman men and women **covered** their heads in worship in the first century.

Apparently, some of the Christian women felt it was ok to worship with their head uncovered.

In a place like Corinth that brings a quick identification from worldly people.

Perhaps these woman thought that since we are all one in Christ, then all functional submissions were null and void. (Sounds like a bit of attitude was involved also.)

Galatians 3:26-28 Does this mean that only Christ can tell you what to do? No.

Ex. Children could stop obeying parents, or showing any respect to parents if this was what is meant by the passage in Galatians 3.

Ex. Church that wanted to have kids have equal vote in church on budget items.

Text: I Corinthians 11: 1-16 READ

11:3 God

Christ

Man

Woman

Question: What kind of subordination is this? It is a "functional subordination" and not an "intrinsic subordination." Christ set the pattern of functional submission for us, but complete obedience to the Father. John 5:17-32

Christ: He is God and creator who came down to save us and was submissive to the Father in all things. John 1:1-4, 14, 18, 10:30, Matthew 28:18, Colossians 1:15-19, 2:9

Christ did this surrender voluntarily to focus on the Father. I Corinthians 15: 22-28

Both men and women are made in the image of God.

The woman is not an inferior afterthought. The perfect expression of God comes through both men and women.

Ex. Expositors- "It follows that he who degrades a woman sullies his manhood, and is the worst enemy of his race; the respect shown to women is the safeguard of human dignity."

This whole discussion is an "order of creation" issue. *Men should look like men, and women should look like woman.* In that day, since both men and women dressed in flowing robes and loose clothing, for the most part, the hair became a quick identifier of gender, but also the kind of person it was. Particularly, if a woman had no sign of authority she obeys, on her head, i.e., father or husband, then you knew something was off, and it made her vulnerable. Remember, this is Corinth!

11:4-5 How we should look in public worship. Hair, clothes and dress spoke volumes in that day. No look of paganism for the Christian would be important. In our day it has to be a very odd dress, hair, or style to catch attention.

11:5-6 Shaving the head marked a woman who had thrown off all concern to be functionally submissive to anybody but themselves. Multiple explanations have been given for why a

woman would shave her head. A Jewish women might do it in mourning, Deuteronomy 21:12. Temple prostitutes were known to cut their hair shorter than other women to show their rank in the pagan temple. Regular prostitutes would shave their heads because of lice. A lot more to it than that, but there is just not enough information from the period to be dogmatic and say we know exactly what we are dealing with here. But for sure, it was a shameful thing and would take brashness to do so in public worship.

Ex. Expositor's- "Of course she would feel shame to have her head shaved because it is so unnatural, but can't you see it is shameful also to be uncovered in immoral Corinth?"

POINT: Do not be associated, in the way you dress, as one that is instantly recognized as one with loose morals, in church or outside the church.

Ex. We all knew who the easy girls were at school. The way they dressed, and if they had a bad relationship with their father, and if they had a generally rebellion against authority.

11: 7-10 The angels are always a part of God's dealings with man, and public worship is no different. I Cor. 4:9, Galatians 3:19, Hebrews 1:7, I Peter 1:12, Ephesians 3: 8-10, I Timothy 5:21. Angels are offended by irreverence and arrogant misconduct.

11:11-12 This is a big **HOWEVER**. We all need each other. This functional subordination is all just to keep the dignity of the created order.

Nothing looks more stupid that a man, not living in submission to Christ, thinking he can boss his wife around.

Ex. In counseling: "She needs to submit to my authority as Ephesians says." I say, "There is a good reason she may not have even considered it; Baby boy leadership will not cut it!"

Ex. Tenny- ",,,either sex alone is half itself,,, each fulfills defects in each, and always thought – in- thought; purpose- in- purpose; will- in- will they grow,,, the two-celled heart beating, with one full stroke, life."

11:13-16 "Her hair is given as a covering." This is the main way to distinguish and honor God that transcends a temporary custom. So what can each of us do to honor the Lord on this subject? What good witness can we be to the world in this manner?

Final: When Peter finished speaking about a godly woman and her relationship to her husband he said this. I Peter 3:8-9 "To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing."

QUICK TEST

No religion, cult or sect in the world agrees with Biblical Christianity on four main truths:

Pick out the four foundational truths out of the list below.

The Golden Rule

The Bible is the inspired, authoritative, inerrant Word of God

The Ten Commandments

There is only one God

Christ rose bodily from the grave, conquering death and proving by this that He is God

Christ is a good example for us to follow

God became incarnate (flesh) in the man Jesus Christ

God is by His nature loving

God is just

Christ atoned for (paid for) our sins through His death on the cross