

1 CORINTHIANS

SEEING EVERY PART OF LIFE THROUGH THE GOSPEL

30 May 2021

Chapter 11

Verse of the Day:

But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. 1 Corinthians 11:3

Review: Who, What, When, Where, Why?

What's Going On Here?

From here to the end of chapter 14, Paul deals with good order that should prevail in public worship. Paul rebukes the Corinthians for improper conduct shown at their services. The particular abuses referred to are improper dress and unbecoming behavior of women, as well as abuses in the administration of the Lord's Supper.¹

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, ³³ just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

11 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Head Coverings

² Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. ³ *But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, **and the head of Christ is God.*** ⁴ Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, ⁵ but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. ⁶ For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head. ⁷ For a man ought not

v2: c.f. 1 Corinthians 10:33-11:1 & Matthew 20:25–28. What did Paul have in mind in saying that he followed the example of Christ?

Carefully consider verses 2-10. What do you think is Paul's main concern in this passage? (also c.f. Genesis 1:26–28, 31; Genesis 2:15, 18–24; 1 Timothy 2:8–15 & 1 Peter 3:1–7)

¹ Engfehr, Lois M. (1997). *God's Word for Today: 1 Corinthians* (p. 55). St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House. Reproducible by purchaser only. © 2009 Concordia Publishing House.

to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man.⁸ For man was not made from woman, but woman from man.⁹ Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.¹⁰ That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.¹¹ Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman;¹² *for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.*¹³ Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered?¹⁴ Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him,¹⁵ but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering.¹⁶ If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.

In contrast, read Galatians 3:27–29, why does Paul maintain distinctions in 1 Corinthians, but not in Galatians (c.f. Order of Creation vs Order of Salvation)?

v14: “From numerous paintings, statues, reliefs, and coins from the Greco-Roman era we know that it was customary for Greek and Roman men to cut their hair short. The Spartans stood out as exceptions to the rule, drawing comment from Greek authors.”² c.f. Nu 6:5

v16: literally, “is disposed to be a lover of arguing”

v2-16 does not define the roles of men and women in every possible life situation. Rather, Paul talks about how we express these roles in the public worship service. Why is it important for Christian men & women to conform to accepted customs that define morality and modesty?

Which elements of our culture might Christians be wise to avoid?

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

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² Lockwood, G. J. (2000). *1 Corinthians* (p. 377). Saint Louis: Concordia Pub. House.