

Should Women Wear a Head Covering? *1 Corinthians 11:2-16*

KEY VERSE—

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. 1 Corinthians 11:3

SUMMARY—

In this entire section, wearing the veil is really a secondary issue—at stake is a more permanent truth about men and women in God’s order of things (Cor. 11:2-3). Both the actions of men and women reflect back on their head (Cor.11:4-6).

He next addresses various reasons for this sign of her subjection--because woman is the glory of man (Cor.11:7), because woman was taken from man (Cor.11:8), because woman was created for the man (Cor.11:9), and because of the angels who did not keep their proper place of subjection (Cor.11:10; cf. Jude 6). Even so, God established interdependence between men and women (Cor. 11:11-12). Spiritual wisdom and everyday living show the need for some representation of that subjection (Cor. 11:13-15). Finally, if such a subject brings contention, then the very submission it represents is compromised (Cor. 11:16).

QUESTIONS—

1) *What has been one of the great problems in the Corinthian church, which is further illustrated in this section? (Cor. 11:16, 18; cf. 1:10)*

2) *This section is about more than just customs and hair length. What else is it about (Cor. 14:40)?*

3) *What does he praise the Corinthians about (Cor. 11:2)? What were these traditions he delivered to them (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6)?*

4) *Why does he introduce the point about rank (level) and authority in (Cor. 11:3)?*

5) *Why is this divine (heaven’s) order between man and woman (Cor. 11:3)? Do these passages shed any light?*

- *1 Timothy 2:13-14--*

- *Genesis 2:18-23--*
- *Genesis 3:16---*

6) *Under whose power was this prayer and prophecy being uttered (Cor. 11:4-5; Cor. 14:14-16, 26)?*

7) *Were there female prophets in the early church during the days of spiritual gifts (Acts 2:17-18; 21:8-9)? Where were prophecies to be uttered (Cor. 14:3-5, 14-16; Cor. 11:17-19)? If a female prophet was uttering a message given to her by God, what might some people assume about her actions (1 Timothy 2:11-12)? What was she to do to insure that both she and other people recognized her submission to God and man (Cor. 11:5-6, 10)?*

8) *When she uttered the prophecy given to her, was she assuming authority or submitting to God's command by uttering it? What was a woman who was praying and prophesying acknowledging when she wore a veil (Cor. 11:3)?*

9) *What does the head symbolize throughout Scripture (see Genesis 3:15; Psalm 68:21; Ephesians 1:22; 4:15)?*

10) *Why would it be improper for a man to cover his head when praying or prophesying (Cor. 11:7)? Why should the woman who prays and prophesies cover her head (Cor. 11:7-10)?*

- *11:7b—*
- *11:8—*
- *11:9—*
- *11:10—*

11) Explain the phrase “because of the angels” [it must be important since he says they are to do this because of angels] (Cor. 11:10). What do angels have to do with this (Cor. 6:3; Jude 6)?

12) Man was created in what two phases (Genesis 1:26-29; 2:18-25)? In spite of this difference, what still exists between male and female (Cor. 11:11-12)?

13) Who has determined the places of men and women (Cor. 11:12)?

14) The issue in Corinth is much deeper than wearing a veil. What does Paul want them to recognize (Cor. 11:3)? Why does the veil then become an issue (Cor. 11:13-15)?

15) Should they be able to judge accurately about this situation (Cor. 11:13)? Why (Cor. 2:14-16)?

16) Did God give woman the veil and long hair—or did God give her the instruction to be in submission, and these were methods by which she showed that submission (Cor. 11:12, 15)? Did Paul bring the veil to Corinth, or was it already there?

17) Is it an inherently immoral thing for a man to have long hair or a dishonorable thing (Cor. 11:14; Numbers 6:1-21; Judges 13:5, 7)? Is it an inherently immoral thing for a woman to have short hair (Cor. 11:15)? Was Paul speaking of length or of being womanish (Cor. 11:14-15)?

18) Paul speaks of two different coverings for a woman. What are they?

19) If brethren became contentious over the wearing of a covering, what were they compromising (Cor. 11:16)?