



**CHRIST
BIBLE CHURCH**

Glorifying God by bringing all of Christ into all of life.

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1st
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1 Corinthians



The Apostle Paul's Mission to the Corinthians



Christ Bible Church

Adult Bible Class Calendar Fall 2023



Date			Lesson Portion of 1 Corinthians
1	September	10	Review & Preview
2	September	17	1 Corinthians 11:2-16
3	September	24	1 Corinthians 11:17-34
4	October	1	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
5	October	8	1 Corinthians 12:12-20
6	October	15	1 Corinthians 12:21-31
7	October	22	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
8	October	29	1 Corinthians 14:1-12
9	November	5	1 Corinthians 14:13-25
10	November	12	1 Corinthians 14:26-40
11	November	19	1 Corinthians 16:1-11
12	November	26	1 Corinthians 16:12-24

Concerning the Christian
Assembly
Propriety of Men & Women
Introductory Comments

Before we consider Paul's comments in 11:2-16, it is worth observing what precedes and follows this passage.

Throughout 1 Corinthians 7:1-11:1, Paul discusses Christian liberty concerning marriage and singleness, foods offered to idols, which develops into a larger discussion about congregational worship, first eating at the Lord's Table (10:21-22), the propriety in worship services, and then the role of spiritual gifts in worship

Preview of 1 Corinthians 11-16

- I. Introduction (1:1-9).
- II. Response to Received Reliable Oral Reports from the Corinthians (1:10-6:20).
- III. Response to a Letter from the Corinthians (7:1-16:4)
 - A. Concerning Marriage and Related Questions (7:1-40).
 - B. Concerning Foods Sacrificed to Idols (8:1-11:1).
 - C. Concerning the Christian Assembly (11:2-34).
 - 1. Propriety of Men and Women (11:2-16).
 - 2. Propriety at the Lord's Table (11:17-34).
 - D. Concerning Spirituality & Spiritual Gifts (12:1-14:40).
 - 1. True Spirituality (12:1-3).
 - 2. The Diversity of Gifts in One Body (12:4-31).
 - 3. The Crucial Accompaniment—Love (13:1-13).
 - 4. Prophecy and Tongues (14:1-40).
 - E. Concerning the Resurrection of the Body (15:1-58).
 - F. Concerning the Collection (16:1-4).
- IV. Conclusion (16:5-24).

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1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Now, I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. 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. Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, 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. 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. For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. Nevertheless, in the Lord, woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God. Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering. If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.



Paul's Concern Is Not Fashion Fads



What is the Source of the Problem?

- A potential problem: Tongue-speaking & prophesying women in the church.
- The potential blurring of males and females.
- Paul's solution: a head covering for women who pray in tongues and prophesy in the church.

Guiding Principles of Paul's Argument

- Upholds apostolic tradition (11:2).
- Acknowledges a hierarchy in society (11:3).
- The physical and spiritual realms correlate (11:4-6).
- This hierarchy derives from creation(11:8-12).
- Need for proper decorum in the church (11:13).
- Natural law rooted in creational first things (11:14-15).
- Maintains apostolic custom (11:16).

Preempting a Question

“Is it still necessary to observe conventional distinctions between males and females in the Christian church where there is no longer ‘male or female’ (cf. Gal 3:28), where women, like men, are also moved by the Spirit to prophesy and pray” (11:4-5).

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

This is the very question many evangelical women have raised and have answered for themselves by establishing themselves as pastors, church leaders, and theological authorities who cannot be questioned.

“Over-Realized Eschatology in Corinth

- Some denied the resurrection of the body.
- Gnostic influences: The “already aspects” swallowed up the “not yet” aspects of the last day.
- Forward-thinkers saw the 1960s women’s egalitarian movement terminating in the erasure of womanhood.
- Hair length and clothing are not irrelevant matters, not purely subjective choices.
- Fashions that rebel against decorum oppose God’s creational design.

Feminism Is Suicidal

Because forward-thinkers recognized that the 1960s women's egalitarian movement severely injured women, their role in society, and all of society by insisting that females are equal to and no different from males, those folks foresaw that the movement would eventually erase womanhood. After all, Sigmund Freud argued that women were simply men lacking a particular aspect of male anatomy.

Feminism Is Genocide

The feminist movement . . . did not actually liberate women from anything. But it did “liberate” men to exploit women on a much grander scale. It liberated men from responsibility. It liberated the male sex drive from the discipline and constraints of marriage. If we do want to say that feminism was a woman’s liberation movement, we’d have to say it “liberated” women from nature, from their creational design, from their natural use. It liberated them from the love of a husband, the enjoyment of children, and the warmth of a household. The fact that women’s well-being and happiness have been declining ever since feminism got mainstreamed a couple of generations ago tells us all we need to know. Feminism is contrary to God’s created order; because it is unnatural, it can never work in the long run. Sure, the power of the state can artificially impose on us for a while (feminism and socialism always go together because the state becomes a surrogate husband/father to women), but even then, it eventually runs out of steam. Feminism doesn’t just kill particular marriages (with promiscuity, no-fault divorce, etc.) and children (by aborting them, neglecting them, etc.); feminism kills whole societies and civilizations. A society built on feminist principles can never survive for long. Contrary to the feminist mantra, “the future is female,” feminism destroys the future — for men, women, and children. It has no way to bind men and women together; no way to bind this generation to the next; no way to sustain households that are necessary social and civilizational building blocks. Feminism is genocide — just look at what it has done to our birth and marriage rates. If our culture does not repent of the sin of feminism, it will kill our culture for good. We have to choose: Do we want feminism, or do we want a future? (Rich Lusk, “Barbie and the Patriarchy” [<https://kuyperian.com>])

Concerning the Christian
Assembly
Propriety of Men & Women
1 Corinthians 11:2-16

1 Corinthians 11:3

“Now I want you to realize that the **head** of every man is Christ, and the **head** of the woman is man, and the **head** of Christ is God.”

1. Source?
2. Headship?

Paul's Point in 11:3?

“Now I want you to realize that the **head** of every man is Christ, and the **head** of the woman is man, and the **head** of Christ is God.”

1. ~~Source?~~

2. Headship?



Paul's Point in 11:3?

Christ is the Head over Men

Man is the Head over Women

God is the Head over Christ

1. The head of every man is Christ.
2. The head of the woman is man.
3. The head of Christ is God.”

Why do you think Paul arranges his statements as he does?

Paul's Point in 11:3?

Three obvious matters about the Male-Female relationship.

1. Not a matter of superiority or inferiority.
2. Not merely cultural.
3. Not the result of Adam's sin.

Paul's Focused Concern—11:4

Praying & Prophesying

Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, 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 (ESV).

- Every man who prays or prophesies.
- Every **wife** who prays or prophesies.

Paul's Focused Concern—11:4

Praying & Prophecy

Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. But *every woman who prays or prophesies* with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved (NIV).

- Every man who prays or prophesies.
- Every **woman** who prays or prophesies.

1 Corinthians 11:4-10

Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, 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. 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. For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

Why? What Is Paul's Reasoning?

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. For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man.

Why? What Is Paul's Reasoning?

- In vs. 15, Paul explicitly says that a woman's *hair* is her *glory* and is given to her as a *covering*.
- He also reminds us that nature teaches us that long hair is a shame to a man because he looks like a woman.
- Paul did not prescribe lengths for men or women.
- Distinction between the sexes is the issue.

Why? What Is Paul's Reasoning?

For if a woman does not cover her head when she exercises the charismatic gifts of praying in tongues and prophesying in congregational services, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head.”

Why? Paul's Further Reasoning?

For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

1 Corinthians 11:11-16

Nevertheless, in the Lord, woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God. Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering. If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.

Paul Is No Bigot

- 11:3-10 is a sustained argument for male headship and female subordination, yet with real participation in worship, allowing them to “pray and prophesy” so long as they submit to the apostolic teaching of honoring their head, the man.
- “In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.”
- Women and men stand interdependently in the Lord (vs. 11).
 - The man (Adam) is the source of the woman by original creation.
 - The woman is the source of the man by procreation.

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