**THE COVERING OF 1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16**

**Intro. Views of 1 Corinthians 11:2-16**

It was a command for all churches and times

It was a custom at Corinth

Applies only to women with spiritual gifts

Applies only to the assembly

Applies only to prayer anywhere anytime

Applies only to married women

Long hair is the covering

Any covering in addition to hair is the covering

“Head” is not literal but is Christ and man

1. **1 Corinthians – Solutions to Problems**
2. Problems reported by others **1-6** “*It has been reported*…”
3. Divisions **1-4**
4. Incest & toleration of sin **5-6**
5. Problems about which the Corinthians asked Paul **7-16** “*Now concerning*…”
6. Extremes on marriage and sex **7:1-22, 7:23-40**
7. Meats sacrificed to idols **8-11**
8. Spiritual gifts **12-15**
9. The collection for the saints **16:11** Apollos **16:12**
10. **Context of 1 Corinthians 11:2-16**

Questions about meats sacrificed to idols **8-11**

1. **8:1-13** Problem of knowledge without love
2. **8:1-3** “Puffed up” by knowledge w/o love
3. **9:19-23** central **principle** to apply
4. The principle illustrated **9:1-27**
5. The principle applied to the issue **10:1-11:1**
6. The principle applied to veils for women **11:2-16**
7. The principle applied to the Lord’s Supper **11:17-34**
8. **The Text of 1 Corinthians 11:2-16**

**V.2** *I praise you for keeping…what I delivered*

**V.3** *But I want you to know*…introduces something **not delivered** before (compare **v.23-26** & **15:3-5**)

**GOD**

**CHRIST**

**MAN**

**WOMAN**

**V.4** *Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head.*

Praying may or may not be inspired **Jude 20**

Prophesying was inspired **12:4-11**

His head covered (physical head **v.5-6**)

Dishonors his head dishonors Christ **v.3**

**V.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.*

Woman is doing **same thing** man is doing

Her head covered (physical head **v.5-6**)

Dishonors her head dishonors her husband **v.3**

An uncovered head would dishonor her husband same way a shorn or shaved head would

**Historical Context of 1 Corinthians 11:5-6**

Women's hair was a common object of lust in antiquity, and in much of the eastern Mediterranean women were expected to cover their hair. To fail to cover their hair was thought to provoke male lust as a bathing suit is thought to provoke it in some cultures today. Head covering prevailed in Jewish Palestine (where it extended even to a face veil) and elsewhere, but upper-class women eager to show off their fashionable hairstyles did not practice it. Thus Paul must address a clash of culture in the church between upper-class fashion and lower-class concern that sexual propriety is being violated. (from IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament by Craig S. Keener Copyright © 1993 by Craig S. Keener. Published by InterVarsity Press. All rights reserved.)

**V.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.*

***If*** *it is shameful*…has been **proven** in **v.5**

Uncovered **=** shorn **=** shaved **🡪** **SHAME**

Observation based on **custom v.16**

Call for **consistency** similar to **Gal. 5:3**

Let her be covered (**remain** covered)

**V.7-9** *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. For man is not from woman, but woman from man. Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.*

**V.7** consistent with **v.4**

**V.8-9** **universal principle** (man-woman relationship)with a **unique application** to Corinthian culture based on **custom v.5-6,13,14,16**

**V.10** *For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.*

*A symbol of* ***authority*** *on her head* Woman had **authority** to do what man did **if** her head was covered

Because of the angels Christians will **judge** **angels** **6:2**

Some angels left their proper place **Jude 6**

**V.11-12** *Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.*

This is to balance with **v.8-9**

Man is not superior or independent

Man and woman are interdependent

**V.13** *Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?*

Corresponds to **v.5-6**

*Judge in yourselves* Appeal to judgment, their conscience’s sense of what is shameful and what is proper conduct for women

**V.14** *Does* *not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?*

Nature teaches

Man’s hair grows just as fast as woman’s

Nature means **learned habit Eph. 2:3**

PHUSIS a mode of feeling and acting which by long habit has become nature Thayer's Greek Lexicon

**V.15** *But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.*

Nature teaches **v.15** as well as **v.14**

Long hair a **glory** White hair a glory **Prov. 16:31**

Long hair **a** covering PERIBOLAION “wrap around” not KATAKALUPTO “veil”used elsewhere in **1 Cor. 11**

**V.16** *But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.*

Contention is sinful, **not** a **custom**

No such custom is the **custom** in **v.2-16**

Not apostolic custom, not a teaching for all churches as **16:1-4** and **11:23-34** were

Not a universal custom but a way for Corinthian women to apply **9:19-23**