

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
1 Corinthians Chapter 11 Part 1
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I. Authority and Headship in Redemption, Creation, and Nature

1 Corinthians 11:1-3 (NASB) *Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you. But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.*

A. There is **divine** order of Spiritual authority.

- 1) God (“*God is the head of Christ*”)
- 2) Christ (“*Christ is the head of every man*”)
- 3) Man (“*man is the head of a woman*”)
- 4) Woman (“*Wives, be subject to your husbands*”) **Col 3:18**
- 5) Children (“*Children, be obedient to your parents in all things*”) **Col 3:20**

1 Corinthians 11:11-12 (NASB) *However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.*

B. There is complete interdependency within God’s order.

- 1) Men and women are not **independent** of each other
- 2) **EVERYTHING** comes from God.

There is a clear difference between men and women

Difference does NOT mean inequality nor inferiority.

The word “head” is used in 2 ways, both to describe the

- 1) **physical** biological control center
- 2) **spiritual** authority and order

1 Corinthians 11:4 (NASB) *Every man who has something on his head while praying or prophesying disgraces his head.*

C. A **1st Century** man covering his physical head is disgracing his spiritual authority if he does so while praying or prophesying.

1 Corinthians 11:7 (NASB) *For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.*

What’s the difference? **POSTURE** and **PURPOSE**!

1 Corinthians 11:5 (NASB) *But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying disgraces her head, for she is one and the same as the woman whose head is shaved.*

D. Praying without spiritual covering is praying out of order and is **rebellious** not **religious**!

1 Corinthians 11:6-7 (NASB) *For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head.*

E. There is a **cultural** qualifier about how women are perceived in Corinth during this time.

1 Corinthians 11:7-10 (NASB) *For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; (Ref Gen 2:22) for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake. (Ref Gen 2:18) Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.*

F. Women worship under divine authority as **example** to and **protection** from spiritual forces.

1 Corinthians 11:11-12 (NASB) *However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.*

G. Men should never take a position to **DOMINATE** or LORD over women, but acknowledge their gifts, calling, and equity among believers.

1 Corinthians 11:13 (NASB) *Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?*

H. Men would never logically send a women out to do anything else **unprotected**.

1 Corinthians 11:14-15 (NASB) *Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her? For her hair is given to her for a covering.*

I. **Nature** reveals a clear **difference** between men and women physically.

1 Corinthians 11:16 (NASB) *But if one is inclined to be contentious, we have no other practice, nor have the churches of God.*

J. **Culture** among all the churches established then **recognized** this authority and order.

Next Week Read Chapter 11:17-34