

“A Covering”

1 Corinthians 11:1-16 10/04/15

Today, we'd like to study the title of “A Covering” in *1 Corinthians 11:1-16*.

To Online Word's people, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions:

Q1. In verse 3, “But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman *is* man, and the head of Christ *is* God,” what does the word of “head” mean in this context?

Q2. In verse 11, “Nevertheless, neither *is* man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord,” what does it mean?”

Q3. In verse 16, “But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor *do* the churches of God,” what does it mean?

(Background)

Terminology¹ - (1) Tradition – passing down of teachings, beliefs, practices, etc. from the past to the present; (2) Custom – established social accepted practice; (3) Culture – the particular system of art, thought, and custom of a society; (4) Habit – customary behavior.

Acts 18:11 “And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.” (in Corinth in the context)

In the previous chapter 10, Paul taught the way to do all to the glory of God would determine whether or not we can eat the food offered to idols.

1 Cor 10:31-33 “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.³² Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,³³ just as I also please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.” Paul said whatever you do (e.g., teaching, practice, tradition, custom, or culture), do all to the glory of God, do not offend others and the church of God but seek others' profit for salvation.

Notice that on this text, three contrast conjunctions (3, “But”; 11, “Nevertheless”; 16 “But”) are used beyond “but” between man and woman. Now Paul taught the custom in Corinth by creation order in God's authority, all to the glory of God.

¹ Source: Paul Procter, “Longman dictionary of Contemporary English,”(Bath, Great Britain: The Pitman Press, 1978)

<p>¹<u>Imitate</u> me, just as I also <i>imitate</i> Christ.</p> <p>²Now I <u>praise</u> you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and <u>keep the traditions</u> just as I delivered <i>them</i> to you. ³<u>But</u> I want you to know that the <u>head</u> of every man is Christ, the head of woman <i>is</i> man, and the head of Christ <i>is</i> God. ⁴Every man <u>praying or prophesying, having <i>his</i> head covered, dishonors his head.</u> ⁵But every woman who <u>prays or prophesies with <i>her</i> head uncovered</u> dishonors her head, for that is one and the same <u>as if her head were shaved.</u></p> <p>⁶For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is <u>shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered.</u> ⁷For a man indeed ought not to cover <i>his</i> head, since he is <u>the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.</u></p> <p>⁸For man is not <u>from woman</u>, but woman from man. ⁹Nor was man <u>created</u> for the woman, but woman for the man.</p>	<p>1=imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ (I am an example for you. Be followers of me just as I am a follower of Christ. Like TA-College Teacher relationship)</p> <p>2= praise (commend); traditions [ordinances] (teachings, the Word & practices – e.g. eat sacrifice offered idols if nobody knows it; don't eat it if somebody knows it)</p> <p>3= But (contrast, new teaching/practice which you do not keep); head (man's head is Christ; woman's head is man; Christ's head is God; in 8 & 9, "created from"; creation order in God's authority, in 10 "a symbol of authority")</p> <p>4= covered (by a veil or long hair, 15) (man's head's covering – no tradition in Corinth "historical background²"); dishonors his head (in creation order in God's authority)</p> <p>5 = prays or prophesies (by creation order in God's authority, woman is not allowed to teach adult man but to pray, prophesy, teach young women & children, and preach <i>1Tim 2:12; Titus 2:4; John 20:16-18; Luke 2:36-38³</i>)</p> <p>6= let her be covered (keep the tradition in creation order, for all to the glory of God)</p> <p>7= not cover his head (because he is the image and glory of God) but woman is the glory of man.</p> <p>8= For man is not from woman (not created from woman), but woman from man (woman created from man)</p>
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² *Historical background:* Corinth was a wicked city. In the Corinthian custom, the women covered their heads by either coverings or long hairs, but prostitute women had their short hairs or shaved their heads without any coverings. There were over a thousand prostitutes from the temple of Aphrodite, there at the acropolis above Corinth. And they would come down into the city. The money that was earned would support the temple of Aphrodite. On the other hand, men had their short hairs and did not cover any coverings but male prostitutes covered their heads by either coverings or long hairs, unlike Samson the Nazirite in Judges 16:17 "that he told her all his heart, and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I *have been* a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man."

³ *1Tim 2:12* And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.; *Titus 2:4* that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children.; *John 20:16-18* Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* He had spoken these things to her; *Luke 35-38* Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷ and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem

<p>¹⁰For this reason the woman ought to have <u>a symbol of authority on her head, Because of the angels.</u></p> <p>¹¹<u>Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord.</u></p> <p>¹²For as woman <i>came</i> from man, even so <u>man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.</u></p> <p>¹³<u>Judge among yourselves.</u> Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴Does <u>not even nature itself teach you</u> that if a man has <u>long hair</u>, it is a dishonor to him? ¹⁵<u>But</u> if a woman has <u>long hair</u>, it is a glory to her; for <u>her hair is given to her for a covering.</u> ¹⁶<u>But if anyone seems to be contentious</u>, we have no such custom, nor <i>do</i> the churches of God.</p>	<p>10= woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head (a covering her head) because of the angels (servants of God – authorized by God)</p> <p>11= Nevertheless (contrast with “creation order in God’s authority) neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man (mutually dependent equally – equal commitment and cooperation <i>Gal 3:28^d</i>)</p> <p>12= man also comes through woman (by woman’s birth)</p> <p>13= judge among yourselves (all to the glory of God? Without offending others, not for your profit but for others’ profits)</p> <p>14= even nature (reasonably in tradition in Corinth)</p> <p>15= But .woman ... long hair ... a glory to her ... for a covering (indeed her long hair is covering her head)</p> <p>16= But if ... contentious (argue or debate), we have no such custom (such as women praying or prophesying with head uncovered), nor do the churches of God (the churches of God do not contend his teaching inspired by the Holy Spirit)</p>
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⁴ Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.