

1 Corinthians 11:2-34 New International Version (NIV)

On Covering the Head in Worship

²I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you. ³But 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. ⁴Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved. ⁶For if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head.

⁷A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. ⁸For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; ⁹neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. ¹⁰It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels. ¹¹Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. ¹²For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

¹³Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, ¹⁵but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. ¹⁶If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God.

Correcting an Abuse of the Lord's Supper

¹⁷In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. ²⁰So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. ²²Don't you have homes to eat and drink in?

Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹ For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. ³² Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. ³⁴ Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.

And when I come I will give further directions.

A Place for everything, & everything in its place (1 Corinthians 11:2-34)

17-May-20

We're looking at 1 Cor chapter 11 - please have your Bibles open there.

Let me ask God to give us understanding of His Word; Let's pray...

Intro

We finished up last week in chapter 11:1 - where the Apostle Paul said *follow his example as he follows the example of Jesus*

[PowerPoint 1-Follow example]

Here in chapter 11 - Paul gives two examples of where the **Corinthians** are not following the example laid down by Paul - examples that were originally laid down by **God, the Father** and His Son, **Jesus**

First example of how the Corinthians are not following the example laid down by Paul is - the **example of headship** - that's in **verses 2 to 16**

Example of Headship (11:2-16)

- As far as **headship** is concern
- Paul says that God created a headship order in v3
- **Head** here identifies **authority**
- We've seen this **idea of head** used in schools - **Head teacher** and in hospitals - **head surgeon**
- So, in v3 - **Here's God's headship order**

[PowerPoint 2-Headship-Headship Order]

- Christ is head of every man
- Man (husband) is head of a woman (wife),

- and God [the Father] is head of Christ Jesus [the Son]
- What this Headship order **means** is:
 - 1st - Every human being needs to recognize that **Jesus is Lord of their life** - and is **their Saviour** - through His death and resurrection (Romans 10:9). And there is **no higher authority than Jesus** - his name is above every name (Phil 2:9)
 - 2nd this headship order means - God has ordained that **a husband rules over his wife** - we know that from Genesis 3:16 where it says - *To the woman he [God] said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."*
 - This does not mean a man is superior in quality to a woman - or a woman is inferior in quality to a man. It simply means God has created an order for humans to follow - where a husband is to lead his wife - and a wife is to follow
 - 3rd this headship order means - **God, the Father** has authority over **Jesus, the Son**.
 - **As Jesus said his food was to do the will of the Father who sent Him and to finish the Father's work** (John 4:34). Again, this does not mean that The **Father** is superior in quality to the **Son** - the **Father** is fully God - and the **Son** is fully God

[PowerPoint 3-Head Covering]

- Next Paul gives a **rule** to the Corinthians about **head covering during worship**
 - Paul says a **man who prays or prophesies** - shouldn't have his head covered (v4)
 - And a **woman who prays or prophesies** - should have her head covered (v5)
 - The **head covering** was a symbol of being under authority of someone. So, if a man wore a head covering, he was declaring he was not in authority and under someone else's authority.
 - When a woman covered her head. This showed that she was under the authority her husband. If she doesn't cover her head, she dishonours her head (her husband).
 - Paul's point is, v6, if the woman doesn't cover her head, she might as well shave her head. Shaving a woman's head in some cultures (like Corinth) was a mark of an adulteress - showing she had not remained under the headship of her husband. In other words, Paul's saying, to the women, if you're not going to cover your head to show you're under the authority of your husband, you might as well go the whole way, and shave your head and be identified as unfaithful wife!
 - The head covering worn by the women - showed the church gathering that the women were under the spiritual authority of the men of the church who were spiritual heads of the church - and that wives were under the spiritual authority of their husbands

[PowerPoint 4 - Reasons for Head Covering]

- Paul gives **3 reasons** for this rule of head covering in worship
 - **1st reason** for this rule of head covering - we've touched upon in v3 - and that is to do with God's plan for human relationships in the home and in the church. When God created Adam and Eve - he ordained that there be a difference in the roles between genders. The husband was to rule over the wife (Gen 3:16). And **God's plan also included** that this idea of male headship be not only in the home but also in the church.

Paul confirms this male headship in Eph 5:23 - **the husband is the head of the wife - as Christ is head of the church.**

Before women start getting upset though - Eph 5:25 - goes on to say - husbands should love their wives like Christ loved the church.

How did Christ love the church?

He sacrificially died for the church. So, husbands need to love their wives - with a "to die for" love.

Husbands should literally love their wives so much they would die for them, if need be. If husbands love their wives like that - wives would have no problem following their husbands.

Now because God has **established** this order of headship at creation. This **same order of authority** has been established in the **church.** This is covered in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

- **The 2nd reason** for this head covering is given in verse 8 - and that is - that the first woman - Eve - came from the first man - Adam. Eve was created from Adam's rib
So, man was created first and woman was created for man - to be a suitable helper for the man
- **3rd reason** for this head covering is given in verse 10 - women should cover their heads is - **because of angels.**

What does Paul mean - by the phrase - *because of angels?*

God's law was given with angels present (Deut33:2 and Acts 7:53).

- So, Paul's implying here, that **angels** (who remember are God's messengers and do God's bidding) are **present at our worship to ensure the Law is kept.** So, Paul's saying, *you'd better do as I say, as angels are watching!* (As 1 Peter 1:12 says - even angels long to look into how the Gospel is preached and received)
- Now in case - the **Corinthians and us** - get the **wrong idea about this male headship** in the home and in the church
- Paul clarifies in verses 11 & 12 - that even though, the first woman, Eve, came from the man, Adam, all future men, came through a woman's childbirth. Just because a man has a **headship role or office**, does not make the man **superior or** the woman inferior. There is an equality in genders.
- Why does Paul have to say this. Because the Corinthians, like so many people in the past and present, have got this teaching wrong. They see male headship in the home or in the church, as some sort of tyrannical

institution where the **male suppresses or oppresses the female**. That's **not** what Paul is teaching here.

- In the **Presbyterian Church**, we see **women's ministries "complementing" male ministries**, which has its **source**, in the **woman being a suitable helper to the man**.
- The **relationship between male and female is all about love and mutual help** - **not dominance** and **not oppression**.
- Paul **confirms this male headship** by **referring** to the **natural hairstyles of men and women in Corinth in verses 13 to 16**. As MSG version puts it: **13-16** Don't you agree there is something naturally powerful in the symbolism—a woman, her beautiful hair reminiscent of angels, praying in adoration; a man, his head bared in reverence, praying in submission? I hope you're not going to be argumentative about this. All God's churches see it this way; I don't want you standing out as an exception.

Application:

[PowerPoint 5-Application]

So **how** do we **apply this idea of headship and head coverings** that was going on in Corinth, **to ourselves today** in Toukley?

In **our culture**, we **no longer view a woman wearing a head covering as a sign of submission to authority**. In **our culture**, **scarves and hats are simply fashion accessories**.

Today, a **woman has the choice to wear a head covering if she views it as a sign of her submission to the authority of her husband**. **However**, it is a **personal choice** and **not something that should be used to judge a woman's**

spirituality. The real issue here is the heart attitude of obedience to God's authority and submission to His established order "as to the LORD" (Ephesians 5:22).

God is far more concerned with an attitude of submission to authority than an outward display of submission to authority by wearing a head covering.

Remember - People look at outward appearances – God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7)

As First Timothy 2:9-10 reminds us, "I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God."

Why? So that a beautiful woman would not distract men in worship.

So, applying this to our culture how could we show we accept God's established order of authority?

- a. By men taking the responsibility of leading and not abdicating that responsibility
- b. By men - in their leading - loving women - like Christ loved the church - with a sacrificial - to die for love
- c. By men - in their leading - considering the needs of women - in all their decision making
- d. By women respecting God's ordained order of male headship - and not rejecting it - and not undermining the decisions of their husband or male spiritual leaders -and not causing disunity

- e. **By women helping and supporting the male spiritual leaders as they lead the church**
- f. **By women helping and supporting their husbands as they lead the household**
- g. **We also need to sensitively handle cultural contexts - where people from other cultures might have a different view of male/female headship in their culture. We have to gently explain the Bible viewpoint - where it might be different to their culture - explaining that **God** has set an order of authority that is different to their culture.**

(pause)

The **second example** of how the Corinthians are not following the example laid down by Paul is - **the Lord's Supper** - that's in verses 17 to 34

Example of Lord's Supper (11:17-34)

[PowerPoint 6-Lord's Supper]

- In the **case of the Lord's Supper**
- Paul says there have been **divisions in the church** - v18
- These **divisions** - Paul says v19 - have **made it clear** which people are **following God's way** and which aren't
- **Sometimes** in churches - **divisions can highlight** - where **people** are not following God's word - and can often **lead to some people refusing to follow God's way** and leaving the church. Sad but true!
- What are the **Corinthians doing wrong** in the Lord's Supper then?
 - V21 - some are **not waiting to eat** with everyone else and **having their own private meals** - **in cliques**
 - V21 - **some people** are **left out** - and go **hungry**

- V21 - and **others get drunk - at the Lord's Supper**
- V22 - Paul says **you can pig out at home - rather than bringing disgrace to the church by being gluttons and drunks**
- **After all this is the Lord's Supper**
- The **people are making it about themselves and not about Jesus**
- We see the **same thing has happened in our Christmas and Easter celebrations - where the true purpose of Christmas & Easter is lost in selfish celebrations and indulgence**
- So, from v23 - Paul **reminds them what the Lord's Supper is really about**
 - In fact, **Jesus himself passed on specific instructions to Paul as to how the Lord's Supper should be celebrated**
 - Its' supposed to be a **remembrance meal of Jesus' last meal with His disciples before he was betrayed and went to the cross**
 - **At that Last Supper, Jesus - took bread - representing His body broken on the cross - and Jesus & His disciples ate the bread together - acknowledging His body sacrifice**
 - **Jesus - also took a cup of wine - representing his blood poured out for our sins to be forgiven - and they drank that wine together - acknowledging His blood sacrificed**
 - And Paul says - at that Last Supper - **Jesus introduced a New Covenant - a new agreement between God and humans. This New Covenant means it's no longer the repeated sacrifice of the blood of lambs and bulls that just covers over people sins - it's now a new way - where the blood of God's perfect Son, Jesus - is sacrificed -**

once and for all - to give **forgiveness of our sins** - and give us the **certain hope of eternal life**

- And v25-26 - Paul says - **we are to continue** to share in this Lord's Supper - **as a remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice** - a bit like Anzac Day - lest we forget Jesus' sacrifice
- And **we are to continue** to do this until Jesus returns -
- **How often do we celebrate the Lord's Supper?**
- Well in our church we celebrate the Lord's Supper **bi-monthly** - not daily - not weekly - **so it is seen as a special occasion** and we don't become to blasé or familiar - and **do it by rote**
- From v27 - Paul **warns the Corinthians** about celebrating the **Lord's Supper** in an unworthy manner. What does Paul mean?
- He means acting carelessly, frivolously, selfishly, greedily, and disrespectfully.
- They would be **disrespecting Jesus' body and blood and His sacrifice** - by not taking it seriously
- Instead Paul's says - v28 - **everyone needs to examine themselves before** sharing in the **Lord's Supper**
- The **people who haven't taken the Lord's Supper seriously** and reverently - Paul says in v29 - are **bringing judgment on themselves** and v30 - **in fact some people** in Corinth have already been judged - that's why some have **been sick** - and some have even died
- Paul says - v31-32 - not taking this sacrament of Lord's Supper seriously - **will cause us to be judged and disciplined by God** - so that we don't get a severe judgment later

- Instead v33-34 - Paul gives some **specific instructions**
 - When they **gather** for **Lord's Supper** - then **eat and drink TOGETHER**
 - If they're **hungry** - they should **eat at home** - so the **Lord's Supper** is not corrupted by greed and selfishness

Application

Applying the example of the Lord's Supper to ourselves today, then

[PowerPoint 7-Application]

How do we **prepare** for **Lord's Supper**?

- Do we see the Lord's Supper as a **special thanksgiving** and **remembrance meal** - remembering Jesus' death for us?
- Do we **examine our heart** for unrepented sin?
- Do we have **unresolved anger** or **bitterness** or **dispute**? We need to resolve it.
- Do we offer a **prayer of thanks** for Jesus' sacrifice and a **prayer of confession** for our sins put on Him?
- Do we **focus** on **Jesus' crucifixion** and sacrifice?
- Could we perhaps read the **Gospel accounts** of **Jesus' arrest** and **crucifixion** - in preparation for the **Lord's Supper**?
- Do we **participate with reverence** and **respect**? Not by rote - and not by being blasé and familiar?

Conclusion

To **finish up then** - Paul's saying in this chapter - when it comes to headship in the home, and headship at church - and celebrating the Lord's Supper

There is a *proper place for everything - and everything in its place*

Why?

Because, headship and worship are not about us - they're about acknowledging the headship and Lordship of Jesus

As Paul told us back in 1 Cor 6:20

[PowerPoint 8 -1 Cor 6:20)

We were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with our bodies.

Let's pray