

If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God. - 1 Corinthians 11:16

## I. TO COVER OR NOT TO COVER

- Paul opens this new thought in his letter with a commendation. The Corinthians are holding to apostolic teaching.
- The head of every man is Christ, the head of the wife is her husband, the head of Christ is God. Man is the glory of God, woman is the glory of man. Woman came from man (originally). Man was not created for woman, but woman for man (Vss. 3, 7-8, Gen. 2:21-23).
- In Corinthian culture (likely all Christian culture in Paul's day), women who prayed or prophesied with uncovered heads brought shame upon themselves and their husbands. Men who prayed or prophesied with a covered head dishonored themselves and God.
- Husbands exercise headship over their wives. Wives submit to husbands. Nevertheless, neither is independent of the other. God is the ultimate source of life (Vss. 7, 11; Col. 3:18; Eph. 5:22-33).
- Again, Paul appeals to the Corinthians' intelligence and ability to think. "Judge for yourselves," he says. What does your culture teach you? (Vs. 13-14; 1 Cor. 10:15).

## II. TAKEAWAYS

- There are some biblical passages that remain somewhat opaque to us.
- Paul is clearly mixing theology here with cultural expressions and norms.
- Women in Corinth were to wear a head covering when praying or prophesying publicly. Men were not to cover their heads.
- As a general principle, women are not to make themselves masculine, men are not to make themselves effeminate.
- These practices were not salvific.

**KNOW:** God established a proper ordering for our world. It is to be exercised by the churches of Christ, even if it is disregarded by our world, as it was disregarded by rebellious angels.

**DO:** Live in submission under proper authority.

**Suggested Reading:**

*Men and Women in the Church* by Kevin DeYoung  
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

*Different by Design* by John MacArthur, Jr.  
(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

**For Children:**

*The Awesome Book of Bible Answers for Kids*  
(Available in the LifePoint Kid's Library)

**Next Week's Text:** 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

**Questions/Discovery Points for  
Life Groups/Families**

**Please Read I Corinthians 11:2-16**

1. What issues seem to be confronting the church in Corinth?
2. Paul starts this section with a commendation (see vs. 2). Why, do you think?
3. Why does Paul want women to be veiled when praying in worship, and men's heads uncovered?
4. Does this apply to us today? Why or why not? If not, are there any other applications for us?
5. Do men and women have differing roles in life and the church?
6. How do we interact with each other in the church if we have differing opinions on matters such as these?