

02 November

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 1 Corinthians – week 20



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member what the bible teaches about head coverings?
2. What does v.3 tell us? (**I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband and the head of Christ is God**)
3. What does v.5 tell us? (**Every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her head.**)
4. What does v.6b tell us? (**But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head.**)



Let's go deeper

5. Why should a man not cover his head in v.7? (**For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God.**)
6. What does v.10 tell us? (**That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head.**)
7. What is a woman's natural covering according to v.15? (**But if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering.**)
8. What is Paul's final reminder in v.16? (**If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.**)



Let's apply this

- 9. 1 Corinthians 11:3, 15;** But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. **v.15,** But if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering.
- Who established headship and authority in the home and church?
 - How can a husband use his authority to love and lead his wife?
 - What was the cultural sign or symbol of a woman's head covering in Corinth? (Respect for her husband and a symbol of submission).
 - What is most important to God, the cultural sign for head covering, or a heart submitted to God's order of authority?

SUMMARY:

Week 20 – What does the Bible teach about head coverings? **Read:** 1 Cor. 11:1 – 16

One of the biggest problems in the Corinthian church was disorder in the public meetings at the Lord's supper, and confusion in the use of spiritual gifts. Paul dealt with five areas of confusion in their public worship:

1. God's order of authority

vv.1 – 3; Paul established God's order that every person has a "head," a leader and spiritual authority – someone who is responsible. The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is her husband (see Eph.5:21 – 33), and the head of Christ is God. Jesus was subject and submissive to His Father, even though He is equal to the Father (see John 10:38). It is God's plan that in the home and in the local church, the men should exercise headship under the authority of Jesus Christ.

2. The man and head covering

vv.4, 7; The man honours his Head (Christ) by being uncovered, while the woman honours her head (the man) by being covered. She is showing her submission both to God and to the man. A man should not cover his head, for he was created in the image and glory of God (see Genesis 1:27). If he covers his head, it is as if he hides the glory of God. Man is called to lead and to serve, not to hide the authority God has given him.

3. The woman and head covering

vv.5 – 6, 10; Paul did not forbid the women to pray or to prophesy. In ancient times women wore long hair and in public, wore a covering over their heads, and this covering symbolized her submission and purity. The Corinthian women who appeared in the assembly without the head-covering were putting themselves on the low level of the temple prostitutes. The prostitutes wore their hair very short, and they did not wear a head-covering in public.

In Jewish law, a woman found guilty of adultery had her hair cut off. In Corinth, the head covering was a sign of respect for her husband and a symbol of submission. Without it, she was seen as dishonourable and a shame to her head. This is not just about head covering, but submission to authority and respect for God's order.

4. The natural covering

vv.13 – 15; Paul adds that a woman's long hair is given to her as a natural covering, a sign given by God Himself. The woman's long hair is her glory, and it is given to her "instead of a covering." The important thing is the submission of the heart to the Lord and the public manifestation of obedience to God's order. God desires a clear distinction between man and woman in their appearance and in their roles and responsibilities.

5. Paul's final reminder

v.16; Paul clarified that head covering was not a universal law for all churches it was a cultural sign of respect. As believers we must submit to God's order of authority.