

What did Paul say about women

Part 2

Previously

1Timothy 2:9-15

- Do not wear braided hair, gold, pearls, or costly array
- Learn in silence and subjection; be silent
- Do not teach
- Under man
- Easily deceived

Previously

1 Corinthians 14:34&35

- Let your women keep silent in the church
- It is not permitted for them to speak
- They are to be under obedience
- If they have any questions they need to ask their husbands at home
- It is shameful for them to speak in the church

Previous Conclusion

- Paul was addressing a secular attitude that was being presented by many women in the assembly
- He discussed how this was bad and why it is unfit for a woman who follows messiah to act in such a way

1 Corinthians 11:2-16 (CJB)

2 Now I praise you because you have remembered everything I told you and observe the traditions just the way I passed them on to you. **3** But I want you to understand that the head of every man is the Messiah, and the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of the Messiah is God. **4** Every man who prays or prophesies wearing something down over his head brings shame to his head,

5 but every woman who prays or prophesies with her head unveiled brings shame to her head — there is no difference between her and a woman who has had her head shaved. **6** For if a woman is not veiled, let her also have her hair cut short; but if it is shameful for a woman to wear her hair cut short or to have her head shaved, then let her be veiled. **7** For a man indeed should not have his head veiled, because he is the image and glory of God, and the woman is the glory of man.

8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man; **9** and indeed man was not created for the sake of the woman but woman for the sake of the man. **10** The reason a woman should show by veiling her head that she is under authority has to do with the angels. **11** Nevertheless, in union with the Lord neither is woman independent of man nor is man independent of woman; **12** for as the woman was made from the man, so also the man is now born through the woman. But everything is from God.

13 Decide for yourselves: is it appropriate for a woman to pray to God when she is unveiled? **14** Doesn't the nature of things itself teach you that a man who wears his hair long degrades himself? **15** But a woman who wears her hair long enhances her appearance, because her hair has been given to her as a covering. **16** However, if anyone wants to argue about it, the fact remains that we have no such custom, nor do the Messianic communities of God.

So what do you make of this passage?

- Controversial?
- Why does Paul care so much about hair and if there is something on their head?
- What is the context?

You wore what you are





The importance of the Head covering

- Culture

- The Marriage Veil

- Essential part of the bride's apparel
 - Representative of a wife's fidelity
 - submission

Cultural importance of removing the veil in public

- A sign of withdrawing herself from marriage
- Showed intent of adultery

The Punishment

A woman guilty of adultery shall have her hair cut off according to the law and play the prostitute - Dio Chrysostom, Or.64.3. Cf. Tacitus, Germania

1 Corinthians 11:5

5 but every woman who prays or prophesies with her head unveiled brings shame to her head — there is no difference between her and a woman who has had her head shaved.

Paul felt the need to address the cultural trend

Whether they wished society to perceive them as a modest matron or the 'new' wife was a deliberate choice that they themselves made and conveyed to the public by the way they dressed.

Law and Life of Rome, J.A. Crook

Why would Paul feel the need to address this

- Testimony

- If people were to come and see women who look like these new wives
- Would take a holy assembly and paint it as an immoral and sinful function

Cultural Summary

For the women to act in a deliberate way removing her veil especially while performing the spiritual function of prophesying was showing contention for her position as a wife and help mate as well as for the sacred covenant of marriage.

Application

So what can we take from a letter written in the first century to a culture in another country with a different society, dress, and customs?

2 Now I praise you because you have remembered everything I told you and observe the traditions just the way I passed them on to you.

There is praise in remembering and keeping the commands of God

3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is the Messiah, and the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of the Messiah is God.

The line of authority

1. Yahweh
2. Yeshua
3. Man
4. Wife

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- Order of headship
- Need of understanding the culture around you
- Distinction of gender roles

8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man; **9** and indeed man was not created for the sake of the woman but woman for the sake of the man. **10** The reason a woman should show by veiling her head that she is under authority has to do with the angels. **11** Nevertheless, in union with the Lord neither is woman independent of man nor is man independent of woman; **12** for as the woman was made from the man, so also the man is now born through the woman. But everything is from God.

Application

- Divine order
- Husband and wife as a functional unit
- All functions ordained by God
- The veiling her head that she is under authority has to do with the angels?

13 Decide for yourselves: is it appropriate for a woman to pray to God when she is unveiled? **14** Doesn't the nature of things itself teach you that a man who wears his hair long degrades himself? **15** But a woman who wears her hair long enhances her appearance, because her hair has been given to her as a covering. **16** However, if anyone wants to argue about it, the fact remains that we have no such custom, nor do the Messianic communities of God.

Application

- Judge for yourselves
- A woman's beauty
- Headship and culture