

# 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

**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.

- 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