

1 Corinthians 11 The Beauty of Honoring Christ

1Co 11:1-6 ESV **Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.** 2 Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. 3 **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.** 4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered **dishonors his head,** 5 but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered **dishonors her head,**

Dishonor - to *shame down*, that is, *disgrace* or (by implication) *put to the blush* ----- It seems this idea of NOT DISHONORING (or HONORING) is a key theme of this chapter.

The same word is used in a later portion of this chapter when it talks about how they were partaking of communion in a way that was DISHONORING to the poor

- VS 22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and **humiliate** those who have nothing?

We honor Christ by seeking to imitate Him

- **BE IMITATORS OF ME, AS I AM OF CHRIST** serves as a bridge between Chap 10 and 11
- **It is a good ending for Chap 10** - 1Co 10:31-33 ESV So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.....**BE IMITATORS OF ME.....as I am**
- And a segue to Chap 11 - no one who honored those in authority over him more beautifully than Jesus...and there is no greater example of authority (**He submitted to his earthly parents, He obeyed his Heavenly Father, he served His disciples, He laid down His life for us**)

We honor Christ, by submitting to His authority structure

- **BUT I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND** ----- God → Christ → Man → Woman

Headcovering debate (vs4-16)

Good people differ about application of it...some women never cut their hair; others wear a head covering. My sense is that the teaching here is more about **the culture of Corinth** than about a universal teaching to the church at large...

- VS 15 **For her hair is given to her for a covering.** 16 If anyone is inclined to be contentious, **we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.**
- It is not a violation of scripture, or selective obedience to acknowledge the cultural context of a particular verse and see it as "a cultural practice for their day - but has no bearing on us today" -- However - even with these cultural references there are eternal principles the scripture is hinting at...**in this case, HONOR, and understanding God's structure of authority**

We honor Christ, by honoring those He has placed in authority over us

4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered **dishonors** his head, 5 but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered **dishonors** her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. 6 For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is **disgraceful** for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head.

- The thrust of these verses is to HONOR those in authority over us
- In their culture honor to the husband was shown by wearing a veil - it is not the same today
- You can wear a veil, and still be unsubmitted - honor and submission are attitudes of heart
- A woman with short hair is not a disgrace to her husband in our culture

We honor Christ by honoring His created order

7 For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the **image and glory of God**, but woman is **the glory of man**. 8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 10 That is why a wife ought to have **authority on her head, because of the angels**. 11 **Nevertheless, in the Lord** woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; 12 for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. **And all things are from God**.

Both men and women are in the image of God

VS 7 Gen 1:27 ESV So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

VS 8-9 Woman was made **FROM man** and **FOR man** (as a helper)

- We have been made male and female from the beginning (two distinctions) - not 51 as in FB
- Both men and women are given a position (in **role**, in **sex** and in **authority**) from the beginning

VS 10 **Authority on her HEAD - because of angels** (*they did not submit to their created state*)

- Jud 1:6 KJV And the angels which kept not their **first estate**, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day

VS 11-12 Adam from dust and Eve from rib unique - **now man is from woman, woman is from man**

Sum it up

13 Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with **her head uncovered**? 14 Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, 15 but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For **her hair is given to her for a covering**. 16 ***If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.***

- A woman praying or prophesying should be a submitted woman (so should a man)
- The cultural norms of Corinth are not the cultural norms where we live - but the principles are universal
 - In our culture short hair and long hair do not necessarily indicate man or woman
 - Wearing a veil is not a sign of submission in our culture
 - Yet Authority, submission and honor, are beautiful and should be carried out God's way
- Regarding the wearing of veils -- we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God

We honor Christ by honoring His purpose in our gatherings

17 But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because **when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse**. 18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that **there are divisions among you**. And I believe it in part, 19 for **there must be factions** among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. 20 When you come together, **it is not the Lord's supper that you eat**. 21 For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do **you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing?** What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

To Humiliate is to DISHONOR

- When you come together **there are divisions**
- When you come together **you DESPISE the church and HUMILIATE the poor**
- When you come together **You are not eating the LORD's supper**

We honor Christ, by honoring His body & blood

23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when 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 also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."**

We honor Christ by honoring others

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord **in an unworthy manner** will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks **without discerning the body** eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are **weak and ill, and some have died**. 31 But if we **judged ourselves** truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are **judged by the Lord, we are disciplined** so that we may not be **condemned along with the world**. 33 So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, **wait for one another--** 34 if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home--**so that when you come together it will not be for judgment**. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

Three judgements - the first is best

- Judge Ourselves - Disciplined by the LORD - Condemned along with the world
- Unworthy, without discerning THE BODY (not recognizing what his death purchased for us)
- Unworthy, without discerning THE BODY (also the mistreatment of others in the church)
 - Wait for one another - so when you come together it will not be for judgement

Follow Me as I follow Christ - Learn to HONOR, learn SUBMISSION, learn AUTHORITY