



First Corinthians Learning To Be Light in a Dark World

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Head Covering in the Church

1 Corinthians 11:1–16

June 14, 2015

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Theme: Paul turns from the issue of eating food sacrificed to idols (chs. 8-10) to another area of concern in the church: propriety in worship. Evidently some of the women at Corinth were expressing their freedom in Christ by breaking social taboos, and this was causing disruption in the worship service. Paul encourages these women to avoid such distractions and to observe the social norms that had been established in the church. This would help bring order to worship and so would honor God.

Outline

1. The Argument from Headship and Authority (11:2–10)

a. Paul’s encouragement to follow “the traditions” (11:20)

b. The foundation for Paul’s conclusions: headship (11:3)

c. The applications: A woman should pray with head covered while a man with head uncovered (11:4-6)

d. The reasons for this application (11:7-9)

i. Man is the image and glory of God; the woman is the glory of man, 11:7

ii. The woman comes from the man, 11:8

iii. The woman is “for” man in that she completes him, 11:9

e. The Conclusion: A woman ought to have authority over her head, “because of the angels” (11:10).

2. Clarification: Interdependence of the woman and man under God’s authority (11:11-12)

3. The Argument from Propriety and Culture (11:13-16)

Takeaway: While cultural standards change from time to time and place to place, Christians should seek at all times to honor God and encourage others to growth and maturity.

Next Cove: June 21, 2015

Divisions at the Lord’s Supper
1 Corinthians 11:17–34