



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018  
PASTOR SCOTT GALLATIN

**“BEWARE OF CULTURAL  
OBSTACLES TO THE GOSPEL”**  
1 Corinthians 11:2-16

## INTRODUCTION

In this section, relationships, the ordinances and traditions of the church, and the gatherings of believers are discussed. Often this could be a stumbling block for others. Later on in the chapter, Paul scolds the Corinthians for their disorder in taking communion!

## THE PROPER ORDER

In **verse 3**, two thirds of this verse is about Jesus and the Father. We should study that relationship! God the Father is the head of Jesus, but Jesus is not less than the Father. There is good insight into this relationship in **John 17**. The head of the man is Christ. Every man is accountable to Jesus. The head of the woman is the man. The word *head* is used a number of times. He is speaking of the leader. This word is also used for the head on your shoulders. While man is head of the wife, he is not superior to her, but loves sacrificially, **Eph. 5:25**.

## COVERING

What is described in **verses 4-6** isn't what we see today in the Middle East. The covering over the head communicated that the woman was married, respectable and accountable to her husband. Only the prostitutes went without coverings. Conversely, men with a head covering were dishonoring to Jesus. For a woman to be uncovered, her credibility was in question. She might as well be shaved! That was a symbol of discipline or disgrace.

The scriptures say that a man should not cover his head. Prayer shawls and kippahs were not from Paul's day. These came later through medieval rabbis. The Talmud said "cover your head in order that the fear of heaven may be upon you." Rabbis teach that this honors God, but Paul indicates the opposite.

In **verse 10** women are admonished to cover their heads because of the angels. Be a good witness. We are being watched!

The Lord says that the man and woman are equal in value, dignity and respect, **verses 11 and 12**. Two lives are fused together as one in marriage.

## HAIR QUESTION

The issue of hair is addressed in **verses 13-15**. Long hair is dishonoring for a man, but for women it is a glory. There are some cultural exceptions, such as Sikhs, Native Americans, Vikings, Spartans and Samurais. Even the Nazarites let their hair grow. Paul grew it out then shaved it. Paul affirmed the two gender distinctions. Let a man be a man and a woman be a woman!

The main issue is that Paul wants them to be aware of certain cultural expectations of appearance in communicating the truth of God. Note, there is not a single OT scripture that states that women should cover their heads! (David did go to mourn Absalom with his head covered, however, as well as other as they went up the Mt. of Olives, **2 Samuel 15:30**.) In **verse 16**, Paul says not to even argue about this issue!

## CONSIDER

When traveling to a foreign land we need to be aware of the customs. In Haiti there certain expectations. Also on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It is important to not give the wrong impression. We do not want to unnecessarily give offense and thus hinder the sharing of the Gospel to others!

## PRAY .....

- \* For our Christmas outreach to the community.
- \* For our Christmas Presentation with the Calvary Chapel Choir on December 19th.
- \* For the Prophecy Conference on January 25-26.