

Headship, Hair, & Hats!

I. Intro:

- A. **Slide#1** We are going to talk about head coverings. As we read it, does Paul ever mention what length for hair? Or, what is considered long hair or short? If there is a head covering mentioned, what size should it be? Is a **postage stamp size** big enough, or is **Romulo's** hat the right size? **Slide#2**
- B. Not **difficult** issues here, **but** they are **delicate** ones.
1. **Slide#3** During WWII when drifting into a harbor you would wait for the harbor pilot to take the ship's wheel & weave you through the pathless waters leading to the dock, **Why?** Strategically hidden beneath the water's surface were highly charged **mines** that would explode if nudged by a ship's hull. Only the harbor pilot knew where they were.
 - a) In 1 Cor.11, these are not **difficult** issues here, but they are **delicate** ones.
- C. A **topical issue** that reflects a **timeless principle!** [local significance; culture of the day]
1. Paul solves the problems by **principles**, which are **eternal**.
- D. **Slide#4,5** Read Text. Title: "Headship, Hair & Hats!"
- E. (2) **Two things** that merit **praise** (before the negative things). They remembered Paul & appreciated him & the church was faithful in keeping the teachings/**traditions** that had been given them.
- F. **Slide#6** **Tradition** = merely something *handed on* from one to another.
1. The thing *handed on* may be **bad** as in Matt.15:2,3 **Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread. He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? <-- this one.**
 2. The thing *handed on* may be **contrary** to the will of God Mark 7:8 **For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men - the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."**
 3. **Or**, it may be wholly **good** as here.
 - a) So, **context** must be brought in to understand the meaning.
 - b) Traditions of **men** must be avoided(usually); **the** Traditions of **God** must be observed.
- G. One of the biggest problems in the Corinthian church was **disorder** in the **public meetings**:
1. Some of the **women** were assuming **more freedom** than they should have(11:1-16);
 2. There was **disorder** at the **Lord's Supper**(11:17-34); **and**
 3. There was **confusion** in the use of the **spiritual gifts**(12-14).

- a) The church had been greatly enriched with **spiritual gifts**, but they were sadly lacking in **spiritual graces**. (Warren Wiersbe; Outlines of the NT)
- 4. So, this next section of Corinthians deal w/*the orderliness of Christian worship!*
- H. Paul could have tried to solve these problems by issuing **apostolic edicts**, but instead he **patiently explained with spiritual principles**.
- I. Paul deals with the 1st of the 3 areas of confusion in their public worship.
 - 1. **God's order** in the church is based on **3 fundamentals** that Paul considered self-evident: **Headship**(3-7); **Creation**(8-12); **Nature**(13-16).

II. Slide#7,8 HEADSHIP! (3-7)

- A. (3) Many **love** the middle of this verse(*the head of woman is man!*); **others hate** it; **but** we can't understand it, unless we see it as **a jewel in an exquisite setting of the other 2 relationships**.
- B. Let's look at the other 2 relationships: (note: equality & submission)
 - 1. **Slide#8a [1] The head of Christ is God!**
 - a) Jn.10:30 **I and My Father are one**. Christ is **equal** to God in character & deity. **They were one in cooperation, in service, & in ministry**.
 - b) Jn.14:28 **My Father is greater than I**. Here is the **submission** which He voluntarily took upon Himself when he humbled Himself & stooped to the death of the cross for us.
 - (1) **So, Christ claimed equality with God, but offered submission to God!**
 - 2. **Slide#8b [2] The head of every man is Christ!**
 - a) Man shares with Christ **life & communion**, **for** God made man in His own image.
 - b) There was to be complete **cooperation**, & at the same time a **voluntary submission** that the purpose of God might be fulfilled & that the Glory of God might be revealed.
 - 3. **Slide#8c [3] So, the middle phrase, the head of woman is man, is to be exactly the same!**
 - a) **She is equal to man**. Gal.3:28 **there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus**.
 - b) **She is to be submissive to her husband**. Gen.3:16 **Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you**.
 - c) One said, "When God made the woman He took her from the man, but not from his **head** in case that she would **dominate** him, **nor** from the **feet** in case he should **trample** upon her. God took her from the **side**, close to his a heart, that she might be his companion, his comfort, his love."
- C. **Note:** this **headship** wasn't just set up because of the fall, **but** was God's intent **pre-fall!**

1. **Slide#9** Adam was created 1st, then Eve.
 - a) The creation of Adam 1st is consistent with the OT pattern of *Primogeniture* (firstborn), the idea that firstborn in any generation in a human family has leadership in the family for that generation.
 2. Eve was created as a helper for Adam.
 3. Adam named Eve. (not vice-versa)
 4. God named the Human race **Man** (not woman; not something gender neutral) **He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind (adam).**
 5. The serpent came to Eve 1st. (going for the *role reversal maneuver* tempting Eve to take the **leadership** role!)
 6. God spoke to Adam 1st, after the fall.
 7. Adam, not Eve, represented the Human race. (we're counted sinful because of **Adam's** sin)
- D. **Slide#10** Today will husband's take their rightful place of headship? Will wife's give it up?
1. **Mark Driscoll makes an interesting observation:** Rather than moving from boyhood to manhood we created a **3rd life stage** in the middle called, **adolescence**. We are left with indefinite adolescence! We are left with a **Peter Pan syndrome epidemic** where some men want to remain boys forever!
- E. So, as **Christ** voluntarily submitted Himself to the **Father**, **so** the **husband** is to submit himself to **Christ**.
1. As the **woman** is to be **man's** companion, **so** she is to submit to an authority, which is exercised in love as expressed *at the cross*.
 2. **Any man** that cannot exercise authority like that^(the cross), **had better not get married;** **Any woman** who cannot submit to authority like that, **had better remain single.**
 3. **Remember, we are looking at Headship...not Dictatorship!**
- F. (4) **Dishonors his head** - not the 12" above the neck, but **Christ!**
- G. (5) **Dishonors her head** - not the 12" above her neck, but her **man!**
1. **Slide#11** Women in Corinth who went through the streets *unveiled*, or with *short hair*, were the **prostitutes**.
 - a) You've seen in many Eastern countries even today, women do not appear in public *unveiled*.
 2. In Jewish Law, a woman proved **guilty of adultery** had their hair cut off (Numb 5:11-31)
 3. **Now, Women were showing up at church w/their heads uncovered.**
 4. **"For a Jewish woman to appear outside the house w/an uncovered head was shameful & her husband could divorce her."** (LKGNT/Midrash)
 - a) This was a sign of **disrespect to their husbands** & would have been interpreted as an invitation to sin.

- b) She was in danger of being misjudged! (i.e. harlot)
- c) This would be like your wife taking off her **wedding ring** today! She makes herself vulnerable!

H. (7) What about Jewish men wearing a Yarmulke(yammica), Kippah, prayer cap, in their synagogue?

1. Didn't come about till later, during Talmudic times(2nd cent). It acknowledges what is above (i.e. God).
2. My friend Rabbi Joseph, attributes it back to when the **priests** were called to wear a turban on their head & on it "Holiness to the Lord"(Ex.28:36,37). As the Levites were to serve the people(not just the priests), so all should seek to serve/be like the people.
3. Of course **wearing or not wearing** of a piece of cloth **doesn't** change the **heart**.

III. Slide#12,13 CREATION! (8-12)

- A. Paul lays out the creation order. [man created 1st, then woman from man]
- B. (10) Because of the angels – we are on display before the angels, they are watching us (1Cor4:9)
 1. 1 Cor.4:9 For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.
- C. Remember in Is.6:2, the angels **cover** their faces that stand before God, **and** it seems they want to look down & see a Christian woman worshipping God *also in reverence!*

IV. Slide#14 NATURE! (13-16)

- A. (14,15) Nature? 1st thought is, wait, *a male lion has longer hair than the lioness!* (that's not the point)
 1. Nature gives the man short hair & the woman long hair(generally)...therefore **nature herself teaches**...
 2. Wearing long hair was **contrary** to the custom both of the Hebrews & the Greco-Romans.
 - a) Exceptions were of **necessity or perversity**:
 - b) **Necessity: Nazarite vow** - Long hair was a distinction, allowed their hair to grow. Was abnormal, so it stood out.
 - c) **Perversity: (women) Cut hair short or shaved, like the temple prostitutes.**
 - d) **Slide#15,16** The **Spartans** favored *shoulder-length hair* for men, which they tied up for battle & no one thought them effeminate.
 3. Long hair was a woman's **glory** because it gave **visible expression** to the **differentiation** of the sexes. This was Paul's point in noting that long hair was given to her as a covering.

- B. If local custom does not dictate a head-covering, her long hair can be that covering.
- C. (16) Paul dealt with the **immediate issue** but also put his finger on **the root of the problem**, the Corinthian pursuit of **self-interest** which was unwilling to subordinate itself to the needs of others (10:24) or the glory of God (10:31).
1. Throwing off the head covering was an act of **insubordination** which discredited God
 - a) Many Bible students see that for today the principle of **subordination** (not the command to wear hats) is the key point in this passage. [not hat issues, but hair issues]
 - b) It's cross-dresser issues; its *butchy* girl issues; girly-man issues; transvestite; cross-dressers.
 2. Paul's against **unisex styles**. We have enough confusion of sex roles today...don't add to it.
 3. Paul never mentions hats (issue is hair, short hair, or no hair)
 4. Paul never mentions **what length? What is considered long? What is short? What size covering?**
 5. **Slide#17,18** A few hair do's that I know are biblically forbidden I just haven't found yet...*The Mullet, toupee, guys with corn roe!*
- D. **Recap: Several reasons women must fulfill their proper role in the church:**
1. It shows honor to their **husband**.
 2. It honors **Christ**.
 3. It agrees w/the plan of **creation** itself.
 4. The **angels** watch our worship & know what we do.
 5. **Nature** itself gives the woman long hair & the man short hair (generally).
 6. This is the **practice** of all the churches.
- E. A woman or man **not submitting** to their headship is **out of place** & is always a **hindrance** to the work of God!
- F. **Some practical tips:**
1. **Your fashion & style are personal!** – Nowhere in the scripture do you find **how long** or **how short** to wear, or cut the hair.
 - a) No matter what style you adopt, He's looking at your **heart**, not your appearance that matters.
 2. **Slide#19,20** Your fashion & style should **support your sexual identity!** Deut.22:5 **A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God.**
 - a) **Girls** don't dress like a floozy; **Guys** stay out of the women's section at Kohls.

3. Your fashion & style should **glorify God!** – Your style should be consistent w/the image God wants for you.
 - a) Like clean & modest. Is there anything you should change in your style or fashions?
 - b) If you display God's glory...you can be assured...you'll never be *out of style!* :)
4. Story: kid that came to memorial service with a black hoody with the words F*** O**.
 - a) Usher: should I bounce him. Me: nope. [difference: non-believer]

G. **Husbands**, therefore, should aim for *loving, considerate, thoughtful leadership* in their families. **Wives** should aim for *active, intelligent, joyful submission* to their husbands' authority. (w.g.)

Questions:

Do you think its better to be a man or a women? Are you happy w/the gender God gave you or would you rather be a member of the opposite sex? Can you honestly say that you think members of the opposite sex are equally valuable in God's sight? Are they valuable today in your sight?

Dream for a moment:

What would the church be like if **husbands** fulfilled their role as heads of their wives & families?

What if men were strong, earthly men who were truly alive in Christ. Men who were at church not just to please their wives, to fulfill some religious tradition, but men who were there *to rock their world*.

What could that church accomplish for the kingdom of God?

What would the church be like if **wives** fulfilled their role in a healthy submission to their husbands?

What if women were strong, godly women who were truly alive in Christ. Women who were at church not just to please their husbands, but women who were there *to rock their world*. What could that

church accomplish for the kingdom of God?