

1 Corinthians 11 (1-15-12)

Should Women Veil Their Faces?

Head Covering Series (Part 2)

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

Job 24:7 They cause the naked to lodge without clothing, that they have no **covering** in the cold.

Isaiah 6:2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; **with twain he covered his face**, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

Psalms 89:7 God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

"...behold, there meets me a virgin arrayed as if she were going forth from a bridal-chamber...veiled up to her forehead, and her head-covering consisted of a turban..."

(Hermas, 150 A.D.)

"Canon Seventeenth. Of virgins, that they should cover their faces and their heads..."

(Hippolytus (170-236 A.D.)

"Although such a covering ought to be assumed as is requisite for covering the eyes of women. Clement of Alexandria...It has also been commanded that the head should be veiled and the face covered...Nor is it seemly for a woman to wish to make herself conspicuous, by using a purple veil...And she will never fall, who puts before her eyes modesty...nor will she invite another to fall into sin by uncovering her face. For this is the wish of the Word, since it is becoming for her to pray veiled."

(Clement of Alexandria, 195 A.D.)

"What is 'every woman,' but woman of every age, of every rank, of every condition?...It behooves our virgins to be veiled from the time that they have passed the turning-point of their age...So perilous a face, then, ought to be shaded...who will have the audacity to intrude with his eyes upon a shrouded face?...But we admonish you [also]...who have fallen into wedlock, not to outgrow so far the discipline of the veil, not even in a moment of an hour...For some, with their turbans and woollen bands, do not veil their head...Others are to a certain extent covered over the region of the brain with linen coifs...not reaching quite to the ears. If they are so weak in their hearing as to not be able to hear through a covering, I pity them. Let them know that the whole head constitutes 'the woman.' Its limits and boundaries reach as far as the place where the robe begins...in order that the necks too may be

encircled...Arabia's heathen females will be your judges, who cover not only the head, but the face also...But how severe chastisement will they likely deserve, who...even when about to spend time in prayer itself, place a fringe or a tuft...on the crowns of their heads, and suppose themselves to be covered?...Throughout Greece, and certain of its barbaric provinces, the majority of Churches keep their virgins covered..."

(Tertullian, 150-225 A.D.)

"It must be known, that this covering of the head hath principle relation to the face, which is the best and most conspicuous part of the head..."

(Joseph Hall, 1660)

"...in this Church of Corinth, the men retained the Jewish custom that they prayed veiled, or with their head and face covered, but the women transgressed their Jewish Law, for they went unveiled and bare faced..."

(John Lightfoot, 1684)

"It being the custom then to cover the faces of those that were put to any shame...The man's face is used well to be uncovered...But the woman is subject unto him..."

(Richard Baxter, 1695)

"...Divines think, that the face is that part of the head, which the Apostle here intendeth should be covered...with a veil..."

(Matthew Poole, *Annotations*, 1700)

"But every woman who...prays or prophesies without a veil on her face...disclaims subjection..."

(John Wesley, *Explanatory Notes*, 1757)

"It is not unlikely, what one of the most learned...of our interpreters [Mede]...suggests upon this place, That Christian women might...propose to themselves...an imitation of the priests and prophetesses of the Gentiles, who had their faces uncovered..."

(John Locke, 1824)

"Now the Corinthian women, in imitation of the heathen women...did cast off their veils, discovered their faces..."

(William Burkitt, *Expository Notes*, 1832)

"It was required in females that they should cover their faces whenever they appeared in public..."

(Lucius Robinson Paige, 1867)

"...in the holy congregations of earth woman veils her face in the presence of man...The words 'covered' and 'uncovered' should be rendered *veiled* and *unveiled*, for a woman may cover her head with a turban and yet not conceal her face with a veil."

(F.C. Cook, 1881)

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"It is not improbable that the custom censured by the Apostle was an attempt to symbolize by unveiling the face in public worship the spiritual equality of the woman..."

(Thomas Charles Edwards, 1885)

Genesis 38:14 And she put her widow's garments off from her, and covered her with a veil...

15 When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot; **because she had covered her face.**

1 Samuel 1:9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of **the temple** of the LORD.

12 And it came to pass, as she **continued praying before the LORD**, that Eli marked **her mouth.**

13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial...

Genesis 24:16 And the damsel was very fair to look upon...

47...and I put the earring upon her face, and the bracelets upon her hands.

1 Samuel 25:3 Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of **a beautiful countenance...**

2 Samuel 14:27 And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar: she was a **woman of a fair countenance.**

Genesis 29:17 Leah was **tender eyed**; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.

Ezekiel 16:12 And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head.

Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any...