

**Scripture:** 1 Cor. 11:1-16

**Singing:** 400:1-3 – 321:1-4 – 223:1-3 – 198:1, 2, 5, 7

<b>Worshipping our Head with our head uncovered or covered (1)</b>
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**Opening observations ...**

- A. Authority structures were intended for our happiness (Ex. 20:12, Deut. 5:16)
  
- B. Satan has always assaulted *authority structures* God has instituted (Gen. 3:1)
  - 1. Either by *corrupting* the use of authority (abuse)
  
  - 2. Or by *rejecting* authority (anarchy)
  
- C. God's Kingdom (the Church) should stand in vivid contrast to the world.
  - 1. Not only in how *we love one another* (John 13:34-35)
  
  - 2. But also in how we *use and accept authority* (Eph. 5:21; Rom. 13)
  
  - 3. Be aware that each church community has an audience (1 Cor. 4:9)
    - a. The fallen world is watching.
  
    - b. The unfallen angels are watching (1 Cor. 11:10).
  
- D. The context of the Corinthian Church is relevant to our day and age.
  - 1. Corinth was legendary for her moral depravity (1 Cor. 6:9)
  
  - 2. The young church in Corinth faced dangerous waters in various sins.
  
  - 3. Chapter 11:1-16 is generally overlooked by modern Christians.
  
- E. Overview of 1 Cor. 11:1-16
  - 1. Vs. 1-2: *Introduction of the subject*
  - 2. Vs. 3: *Subject of headship*
  - 3. Vs. 4-6: *Reflection of headship*
  - 4. Vs. 7-10: *Reasons for this of reflection of headship*
  - 5. Vs. 11-12: *Headship does not cancel interdependence of men and women*
  - 6. Vs. 13-16: *Concluding appeals*

## **I. Vs. 1-2: Introduction of the subject**

- A. The message of vs. 1 is strong appeal to follow Jesus like Paul did
- B. Vs. 2a: Paul's general approach: *praise before correction*
- C. Vs. 2b: Meaning of *keep the ordinances*
- D. Unstated connection between vs. 2 and onwards
1. Congregational leaders have forwarded various questions regarding the worship services Paul answered in chapters 11-15
  2. Matter in vs. 1-16 deals with problem of women casting off their veils during the worship services
  3. What was the background of this problem?
    - a. misapplication of the Gospel teaching which freed and elevated womanhood
      - Jesus Himself honored women in His ministry (Luke 8:1-3; Matt. 13:33; John 4; Luke 7:36-50)
    - b. misapplication of the equality in salvation for men and women (Gal. 3:28)
  4. Several sisters in Corinth took the *equality in salvation* too far
    - a. began to *pray and prophesy and cast off their veil* (vs. 5)

## **II. vs. 3: Subject of Headship**

- A. Why did Paul address this subject in connection the head-covering?
1. Because Paul detected Satan's subtle attempt to overturn God's structure of authority (see similarity between Gen. 3 and 1 Cor. 11)
  2. Paul set before us 3 of God's ordained *authority structures* (vs 3)
- B. Each structure deals with the *headship* matter
1. Headship refers to *authority (leadership)*
  2. Never think of authority structures as *superior over inferior*
    - a. God's authority over Jesus is not a matter of *superior over inferior*
  3. Authority structures of leadership/followership are *the wise and good arrangements of our sovereign God*

Conclude: All positions of authority are sacred trusts given by God