

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

God-Ordained Roles for Men and Women.

Today, in chapter 11, Paul's desire is to demonstrate the distinct and God-honoring of roles between men and women!

With the idea of Christian Liberty in mind, there are certain behaviors brothers and sisters in Christ need to adhere to within the church body.

Paul wrote this part of the letter to address the conduct of husbands and wives / men and women **while in church-during a church service.**

Apparently, there were some folks confusing the roles between men and women and Paul needed to remind the believers at the church in Corinth of the God-ordained conduct and roles between husbands and wives / men and women.

Paul's main lesson for us here is to abide within Biblical principles, adapted to the culture we live in, the distinct and traditional roles between men and women.

The main passage that contains the overall principle of the matter is found in verse 3 in consideration of the ordinances for church conduct.

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 (source of authority)
of every man (husband-male) is Christ (The Messiah);
and the head (source of authority) of the woman
(wife-female) is the man (husband-male);
and the head (source of authority)
of Christ (The Messiah); is God.

- “Head”: A divine pattern in three clauses;
beginning and ending with Christ. Kephale (head) = source, or authority.

We have in view here the earthly ministry of Jesus, the Son of God, who came to earth as a man, as the foretold Messiah in the Old Testament.

Messiah, (from Hebrew Mashiaḥ Nagid, “anointed”), the expected King from the Davidic royal line who would deliver Israel from their bondage and restore God’s chosen people.

While on earth, Jesus, the Son of God, while performing His duties as Messiah, for a time, submitted to God the Father.

John 14:28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come *again* unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: **FOR MY FATHER IS GREATER THAN I.**

Philippians 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **but made himself OF NO REPUTATION, and took upon him THE FORM OF A SERVANT, and was made in the likeness of men:** ⁸ and being found in fashion as a man, **HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF, AND BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS.**

In this verse,
we have the chain-of-command from top to bottom.

- 1.** THE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY FOR THE WOMAN (WIFE), IS THE MAN (HUSBAND)
- 2.** THE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY FOR THE MAN (HUSBAND) IS JESUS, THE Messiah.
- 3.** THE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY FOR JESUS, THE Messiah, IS GOD THE FATHER

If you deny one part of this verse, you deny every other part of this verse.

The THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLE that Paul is concerned with is the **blurring of genders.**

More specifically, **Paul is providing guidance about cultural issues concerning the physical appearance of men and women.**

In today's terms, this is observed in the movement of liberal feminism and the move towards normalizing homosexuality and transgenderism.

Husbands and Wives, the single greatest way to invest in your marriage involves embracing and fulfilling your roles and responsibilities that are laid out very simply and clearly in God's Word.

Love-LEAD-Understand. **A husband** should invest in his marriage by his loving of his wife, understanding, and leadership. Love is primary because it is the way we are to lead. Love guides our leadership so that it is Christ-like.

Love-SUBMIT-Understand. **A wife** should invest in her marriage by her loving of her husband, her submission, and allowing her husband to present her as glorious, modest, and without spot or wrinkle. Again, Love is primary because it is the way wives are to submit Love guides the wife's submission so that it is Christ-like, like Christ submitted to the Father.

1 Peter 3:7

Likewise, ye husbands,

1. dwell with them according to knowledge,
2. giving honour unto the wife,

(WHY)

1. (she is) as unto the weaker vessel,
2. (because husband and wife are...) and as **being heirs together** of the grace of life;
3. that your (the husband's) prayers be not hindered.

- If we as husbands are not honoring your wife by not fulfilling your spiritual leadership role in the marriage, your prayers will be hindered...
- Leadership means you take the initiative, and you make the decisions (with loving consideration for your wife). The husband has a mission from God. The husband sets the stage for success.

God's Law About These Issues

1 Corinthians 14:34-37

³⁴ Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak;

*the word for **speak** here is **LALEO**: to talk, utter words:—preach, say, speak (after), talk, tell, utter. (something other than prayer and proclaiming the Word of God from the Bible)*

*Being careful to note, this is not a contradiction of **1 Cor. 11:5** where Paul says women in church are to only **pray or (little "p") prophesie** (speak the Word of God; sharing Scripture) in a manner which does not cause confusion as to their role or their God-ordained gender as a female.

Men are held to this same standard in verse 4.

Women are encouraged to pray and share Scripture as much as any man!

but they are **commanded to be under obedience** as also saith the law.

³⁵ And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak (**LALÉO**) in the church.

(To the husbands: it is implied here that the husband be studied in the Word of God to be a loving guide and nurturer for your wife.

Husbands...are you studied in the Word of God?

If not, you should be prepared (to your shame) to offer to your wife another resource to obtain the learning of the Word of God the wife expects from you at home until you are studied in the Word of God.

Husbands, you are the loving, patient, and edifying (to your wife) spiritual leader in your family.

Husbands, you cannot pass off this duty to the pastor! The pastor's role is not to be the spiritual leader for your family. The pastor's role is to equip the husbands to be the spiritual leader on their family.

This command for spiritual leadership does not by any means imply that the wife is any lesser than the husband, it is simply a delineation of the role God has ordained for the husband to carry out.

Your wife was doing just fine without you under the direct authority of God, having no husband in her chain of command. But she lovingly CHOSE YOU as her husband and therefore chooses to submit (or should be submitting) to you in deference to God's law. So please husbands...don't let your wife down by failing your duty as the spiritual leader in your family.

³⁶ What? came the word of God out from you? or came it **unto you** only?

³⁷ If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you **are the commandments of the Lord.** (not from yourself, but from God)

1 Timothy 2:11-13

¹¹ Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

¹² But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

¹³ For Adam was first formed, then Eve. (this is not cultural; it is the way God intended)

¹⁴ And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

¹⁵ Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

THE CURSE-Genesis 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire (to overpower) *shall be* to thy husband, and (but) **he shall rule over thee.**

Titus 2: 3-5

The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, *to be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, **obedient to their own husbands,**

(why) that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Simply stated.....

- If your wife is forcing the decisions to which theological principles, you as a couple will follow or disregard...then you are failing as a husband.
- If your wife is forcing the decisions to which church, you as a couple will be attending...you are failing as a husband.
- If your wife is forcing the decisions when and where to attend Bible study...you are failing as a husband.
- If your wife is forcing when and where you as a couple will serve and tithe...you are failing as a husband.

Speaking on the question if a woman can be a pastor, we have read already read that this is an IMPOSSIBILITY according to the WORD OF GOD.

Concerning pastors, bishops, elders, deacons.....

Titus 1:6 ...the husband of one wife.

1 Timothy 3:2 ...the husband of one wife.

1 Timothy 3:12 ... be the husbands of one wife.

The Greek phrase given here is *mias gynaikos andra*, which literally means "a one-woman man." This comment from Paul **does not imply** anything in particular about past divorce, widowers, or those who are single, and to do so is purposely adding a wrong interpretation of the Bible. Both Timothy and Paul were unmarried at the time these words were written. The point is that an elder **must not** be known for marital or sexual immorality. This means either being celibate and single, or demonstrating a faithful relationship with his one wife. It also does not imply marriage as a prerequisite for being a pastor or deacon.

Ephesians 5:22-24

FOR THE WIFE

²² **Wives**, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

²³ For the husband is the head (the source of authority) of the wife, even as Christ is the head (the source of authority) of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands **IN EVERY THING**.

******* And all the wives say...That is great! Thanks Pastor**

.....but what do I do if my husband is failing his duty as the spiritual leader in the family??

Do I have get a pass to submit to him?

God has some tough but clear guidance on this issue.

The command for a wife to respect her husband's leadership role is not contingent upon the husband's performance as a good spiritual leader.

Regardless of how well a husband leads, a wife is commanded **to do her best** to respect his authority in the home.

In fact, the Bible teaches that a wife can best encourage her husband to live up to his leadership responsibilities **BY BEING THE GODLY EXAMPLE** the husband needs, remaining submitted to his authority despite his failings.

1 Peter 3:1-2; Wives to be the spiritual example for the Husband

Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands;

that, if any obey not the word, (read the Bible but are not doers, only hearers)

they also may without the word (or do not read the Bible at all)

- **be won by the conversation** (by the Godly example) **of the wives;**

while they (the un-Godly husband) behold your (the Godly wife)

chaste conversation *coupled* with fear.

⁴ Every man praying or prophesying,

having *his* head covered, (a man wearing a veil in that day would be indicating femininity)

* (in a manner that confuses his role or identity a male-husband)

* (LIKEWISE today, if a pastor came to church wearing a dress, with his nails polished and colored, or wearing clothing that hardly covered his body.)

DISHONOURETH his head.

⁵ But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with *her* head uncovered-(veil in that day-indicated promiscuity and/or prostitution)

* (in a manner that confuses her role or identity as a woman-wife)

* (LIKEWISE today, if a woman came to church wearing revealing clothing, or her appearance was that of a man's)

dishonoureth her head:

for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

⁶ For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: *(if the woman is going to dress in a revealing way or like a man...she might as well go all the way with it and proclaim herself fully a prostitute / or fully a man, to her shame and sin.)

---This is a hypothetical statement to emphasize the absurdity of the whole idea...

but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

*(if it is the cultural norm-in any time or place... for it to be shameful...let her NOT do those things that bring shame)

⁷ For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head,

* (in a manner that confuses his role as a male-husband)

forasmuch as HE is the image and glory of God:

Genesis 1:27

So God created man (all humans) in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

- Men AND women are made in the image of God...and as a Christian, men and women are equally joint heirs with Jesus Christ...so let us LIVE with this realization. God sees you, whether you are a man or a woman in your GLORY already...so let us LIVE according to God's GLORY, and not ours.

BUT THE WOMAN IS THE GLORY OF THE MAN.

The man was created in the Glory of God,
and the woman was made from the Glory of God through the
man.

This is why it says in the Bible that husband's ought to love their
wives as their own body because **SHE IS, LITERALLY, from the
husbands own body!**

This is why it says in the Bible, that no husband should hate his
own wife (implying his own literal body) and should feed it good food
and health and take care of his wife with love and in knowledge
with the same fervor he does his own body...
because SHE IS HIS OWN LITERAL BODY!!

Ephesians 5:25-29

²⁵ **Husbands**, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and
gave himself for it;

²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the
WORD,

²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or
wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

²⁸ **So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth
his wife loveth himself.**

²⁹ For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth
it, even as the Lord the church:

- Husbands, your number one goal in marriage is to learn about and understand your wife so that you can take care of her perfectly!
- (you don't have to understand all women...just your wife)
- She is unique because she is not a man.
- She is made precisely by God.

**⁸ For the man is not OF THE woman;
but the woman of the man.**

Genesis 2: 18,21-24

And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This *is* now **bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh**: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: **and they shall be one flesh.**

⁹ Neither was the man created **FOR THE** woman;
but the woman for the man.

The husband takes primary responsibility for his headship, with **a non-reversible orientation** of the woman towards the man as the reference point in her life. This is God's ordained order of things. With no order, there would be chaos.

¹⁰ **For this cause** (in consideration of verses 8 and 9...)

**ought the woman to HAVE POWER
ON HER HEAD
because of the angels.**

Angels observe our public worship services. Since they are watching, it is important for women to be appropriate in covering their glory in any culture or time and not dishonor their husbands.

The theological principle of a woman "covering her head" (having power on her head) is to preserve her glory for her husband. Paul is relaying specific application of a universal principle: **MODESTY**.

Christians may live in widely varied cultures, with variant standards of dress and fashion. All believers, men and women, should appropriately "cover their glory" in public worship services according to conscience and the standards for modesty in their own era.

**“ Nevertheless,
neither is the man without the woman, neither
the woman without the man,
in the Lord.**

There is a mutual work and equal existence between the man and woman that is God-ordained!! Man needs woman, and woman needs man!

“...in the Lord”: Christianity has been and remains to be a force that liberates women from oppression and servitude.

Women are on equal ground with men concerning all things spiritual.

In terms of essence, personhood, dignity, and human rights, women are on the same level as men. Men are not superior to women. God simply has different roles for men and women.

Galatians 3:28-29

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

We read in the Old Testament in ancient Israel, a female was secondary to any male; women were not considered worthy of studying the Scriptures and were denied an education.

They were not even counted in the number required for a synagogue (10).

In many other religions, women are owned by their fathers and husbands, and treated as chattel, or property.

In the NT, there is frequent edifying and mention of women, and their equality is noted in many ways.

***¹² For as the woman is of the man,
even so is the man also by the woman;
but all things of God.***

The first woman was made directly from man. From that point forward though, ALL men are born from women. And all these things and from God!

Attendance at, and participation in, a service dedicated to worshipping God requires proper decorum.

Do you know that the angels cover their faces in God's presence?

Isaiah 6:2-3

“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. And one cried unto another, and said,

“Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.”

In that day, women wore veils as marked distinction from men. God created a distinct difference between men and women and he desires that His people mark this dissimilarity with appropriate dress. Not abiding by these dress codes negates the differentiation which God has designed.

Again, Paul's main lesson for us here is to abide within Biblical principles, adapted to the culture we live in, the distinct and traditional roles between men and women.

¹³ Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? ¹⁴ Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

Paul says, "***Nature itself teaches you.***" Let's figure out what Paul means. Nature gives men shorter hair than women. Physiologically, this is true. That is what the Bible says here, but that is also stated in the physiological truth between men and women.

Hair grows in a three-phase cycle.

The first cycle is the formation and growth of new hair.

Secondly is the resting stage.

Thirdly is the fall-out stage.

So, you have from the start, the formation and growth of new hair, the resting stage, and the fall-out. And then after the fall-out the cycle starts all over again.

Now, the male hormone, **testosterone** – the male hormone speeds those three phases so that quickly the man gets to phase three, the fall out phase. That's why you see bald men but never see bald women.

There's a reason for that. **Testosterone**, the male hormone, causes the speed up of the steps to get you quickly to step three. And that significantly slows down the growth of hair in a man.

The female hormone, **Estrogen**, in the woman causes the cycle to remain in stage one, **the growth stage**, longer than it does in a man.

That's why a woman's hair will grow longer than a man's over the same period of time.

So, does not nature teach you? Hasn't God put right into human physiology the truth that short hair belongs to men, and long hair belongs to women?

Indeed God has placed this right into nature for our learning.

There are also other various natural differences between men and women that are being disputed today leading to mutilation and cosmetic surgery to change one's outward appearance, but at the end of the day...you cannot change the chromosomes God has ordained in every single human being making them man or woman.

¹⁵ But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for *her* hair is given her for a covering.

¹⁶ But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Paul has experience with people who reject the Word of God. He knows all about human responses, and he knows exactly what rebellious people are going to say. "If any man seem to be contentious" **and you want to argue against this, Paul says...**"we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."

If you are looking for someone to back you up...it will not be found anywhere in the Bible, nor be anyone in church who follows the Word of God.

It is the universal agreement of the inspired writers of the Bible. If you are gonna fight it, you will have no authority from Scripture, and you will be wrong no matter how loud you shout it.