

“Dress For Respect!”
1 Corinthians 11:4-10

Introduction:

1. This Morning, We Are Going To Head Back To Our Study Of 1 Corinthians!
 - 1 Corinthians 11!
 - We Did Not Continue With Our Series Last Week, Because I Needed A Bit Of Extra Time To Consider The Passage We Will Look At This Morning In Some More Detail!
 - And As We Come To This Passage:
 - I Think That You Will See Why!
 - It Has Been A Difficult Passage For Christians & Churches To Interpret & To Apply – Not Just In Our Time Either!
2. Beginning In Verse 4 Of Chapter 11:
 - Paul Begins Talking About Headcoverings!
 - How Christian Men Were **Not** To Wear Headcoverings When Leading Or Participating In Worship Of The Lord!
 - And How Christian Women Were **To** Wear Headcoverings When Leading Or Participating In Worship Of The Lord!
 - And This Is Obviously Something That Is Not:
 - Very Common Or Very Popular In Our Culture & Even In Our Own Church Today!
 - So We Need To Come To These Verses:
 - Prayerfully / Humbly & Thoughtfully!
3. Before We Look At The Verses Of Our Text This Morning:
 - I Want Us To Remember The Context Of These Verses:
 - By Looking At 11:2-3:
 - “Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. / 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!”
 - In Verse 3 Especially:
 - Paul Is Explaining How That God Designed Everything In This World To Function Decently & In Order!
 - And Every Person Has A Leader In Their Life!
 - An Authority Figure!
 - Every Man In This World:
 - Is Under The Authority Of Jesus Christ!
 - Not Just Christians!
 - But All Men! And All People!
 - Jesus Is Our Head!
 - Because Philippians 2:10 Says: “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth!”
 - And Every Woman In This World:
 - Is To Be Under The Authority Of Her Man!
 - A Wife Is To Submit To The Leadership & Authority Of Her Husband!
 - A Daughter Is To Submit To The Leadership & Authority Of Her Father!
 - And This Is The Way God Meant For Things To Be & To Run In This World!
 - The Man Is The Head!
 - This Submission Does Not Mean That:
 - The Woman Is Inferior To The Man!
 - Or That The Man Is Superior To The Woman!
 - It Just Means That God Has Designed A Special Role & Responsibility For The Man & For The Woman!
 - And This Submission Is Meant To Be Done:
 - Willingly & Humbly & Lovingly!
 - Why? Because Of How We Even See The Relationship Between God The Father & God The Son!
 - As 11:3 Teaches - Even Jesus Christ - The Son Of God:
 - Is Under The Authority God The Father!
 - God The Father Is The Head!

- This Does Not Mean That:
 - Jesus Is Any Less Than God!
 - It Just Means That In Their Relationship With One Another & In Their Roles - There Is An Order To It!
- And This Submission Is Done:
 - Willingly & Humbly & Lovingly!

4. So - It Is In The Context Of Authority We Read:

- 11:4-10 - Which Deals With Headcoverings!

- 11:4-10 - "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. / 5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered 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: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. / 7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. / 8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. / 9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. / 10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels!"

- Before We Look At How We Should Interpret & Apply These Verses To Our Lives:

- I First Want To Share Something I Remember From When I Was In High School!

- There Was A Class I Was Required To Take:

- Called Keyboarding! Or Typewriting!

- Didn't Really Want To Take It - But I Found Out That I Was Pretty Good At It & Pretty Fast & Accurate At It! I Tried To Keep My Grades To Myself, But Was A Bit Embarrassed When My Teacher Asked Me To Represent The School At A Keyboarding Competition! I Thought That Mostly Girls Would Be In The Competition - And I Was Right! I Was The Only Guy! And I Placed Too! 2nd Or 3rd - I Don't Remember Which!

- But I Do Remember One Of My Awards:

- It Was A Book Titled - "Dress For Success!"

- Because Keyboarding Was Considered To Be A Skill For Business, This Book Was Meant To Help In That As Well! The Title Said It All - "Dress For Success!"

- It Gave Examples & Pictures Of How Professional Women & Men Were To Dress - In Order To Make A Positive Impression On People - And To Advance In The Business World!

- I Learned Through That Book That What A Person Wears Does Say A Lot About That Person! Still Applies Today! People Do Judge You On What You Wear!

- Well - The Verses We Just Read Also Deals With An Article Of Clothing - A Headcovering!

- Christian Men Were *Not* To Wear One In Worship!

- Christian Women Were *To* Wear One In Worship!

- But This Wasn't Just A Rule That Paul Was Making Up To Create Controversy!

- No - There Was A Reason For It!

- In Corinth At That Time:

- Just Like In Our Time - What A Person Wore Said Something About Them!

- And Paul Was Telling Christians:

- Don't Just Dress For Success In The World!

- Dress For Respect In The Church!

- Dress For Respect!

- Not To Impress Others & To Get Them To Respect You! No!

- But To Show Your Respect & Your Attitude To The Authority God Has Placed In Your Life!

- And However We Interpret & Apply These Verses:

- This Is The Main Point Of These Verses!

- To Dress For Respect - In Worship & In The Church!

- To Show Your Respect & Your Submission To The Authority God Has Placed In Your Life!

- If God Has Saved You & Is Sanctifying You:

- Respond To Him In Your Heart & In Your Habits!

* The First Thing I Want Us To Consider Is:

1. **The Regulation Of Our Dress:**

- Some Might Wonder - Why Is Paul Dealing With This In The First Place?

- Didn't God Say: "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart!"? (1

- Samuel 16:7)
- Absolutely! Of Course He Did! That Is How & Where God Looks! Nothing We Do & Nothing We Wear Can Impress Him! But People DO Look On The Outward Appearance - And What They See Christians Even Wearing Can Affect Them & Their Attitudes Towards Us & Towards God!
 - So - This Is Why Paul, Under The Inspiration Of God, Talks About Some Rules & Regulations About What Christians Wear!
 - And There Are Some Questions That We Need To Consider In Order To Apply These Verses To Our Lives!
 - Is This A Universal Regulation?
 - That Is - Is This Something That Holds True Across All Times & Across All Cultures!
 - Is 11:4 & 11:5 Universally True?
 - 11:4 - “Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. / 5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven!”
 - To Dishonor Means To Disgrace & To Shame!
 - To Answer This Question - We Need To Look To The Bible!
 - Is It Always A Shame For A Man To Worship & Pray To & Serve God With His Head Covered?
 - In Exodus 28-29, We Find God Ordaining & Even Clothing His Priests!
 - What Were These Priests To Do?
 - Sacrifice / Pray / Prophecy!
 - What Were They To Wear?
 - Among Other Things - A Mitre - A Turban Wrapped Up Around Their Head!
 - And It Did Not Bring Shame To Their Head / Authority When They Did This!
 - This Is One Of The Main Reasons Why I Believe These Verses Are Not Universally Required For All Churches In All Places At All Times!
 - So - Is It Always A Shame & A Disgrace For A Woman To Worship & Pray To & Serve God With Her Head Uncovered?
 - I Don't Believe This Is A Universal Truth!
 - So What Is The Point?
 - Is This A Cultural Regulation?
 - That Is - Was Paul Telling The People To Simply Make Sure They Were Conforming To The Normal Way Of Dressing In Their Culture!
 - Perhaps Because The Christians Felt That They Were At Liberty To Wear Anything They Wanted To, At Home Or In Worship With The Church!
 - And After Spending Much Time Looking Into The Culture Of Ancient Corinth & Reading Many Articles On The Subject - I Have To Conclude That This Was Not Just A Cultural Regulation!
 - Because Corinth Was A Cosmopolitan City!
 - It Was A “Melting Pot” In The Roman Empire!
 - There Were Jews & Greeks & Romans & Asians & Africans & Many Others!
 - Different Cultures / Different Languages / Different Religions / Different Clothes!
 - There Was No “Normal” Way Of Dressing In Corinth, It Would Seem!
 - So If This Is Not A Cultural Issue - What Was His Point?
 - Turn To The Religions World!
- Is This A Religious Regulation?
 - This Is Where I Think We Will Find An Answer To Why Paul Is Dealing With This Issue!
 - Because:
 - Even Though Clothing In The Culture Was Diverse In Corinth / Clothing Was Very Distinct In The Major Religions Of Corinth!
 - In Some Of The Major Pagan Religions In Rome / Corinth:
 - Men Would Often Worship With Their Heads Covered!
 - And Women Would Often Worship With Their Heads Uncovered! Even If It Was Common To Wear A Veil The Rest Of The Time!
 - In Light Of What We Read In 10:20-21 - “But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. / Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils!”
 - And Seeing That Paul Is Wanting The Corinthian Christians To Stay As Far Away From Pagan

Idols & Worship As They Can!

- It Seems That Here, Paul Is Wanting Them To Display A Difference In The Way They Worship!
 - Even Through What They Wear!
 - Even Through Their Headcoverings!
- So - Paul Is Telling Them & Us:
 - Dress For Respect!
 - Dress In A Way That, When You Go To Worship The Lord!
 - Through Prayer & The Ministry Of The Word!
 - Make Sure You Do So In A Way That Is Different:
 - Than The Way Others Around You Are!
 - And Show Them Your Respect For The Lord!

2. *The Reasons For Our Dress:*

- But Why Is What We Wear So Important To Paul?
 - Why Was Headcoverings Such An Important Issue?
 - It Is Evident From These Verses As Well As Others:
 - That God Does Care What Christians Wear!
 - His People - Christians!
 - God Does Care What Christians Wear!
 - This Does Not Mean That We Treat Anyone Differently Because Of What They Wear – Especially Unbelievers!
 - No - What You & I Wear In Worship Of The Lord Out To Reflect Our Response & Respect To The Lord We Worship!
- Because Of Our Difference!
 - As We Just Mentioned:
 - It Appears That Paul Wanted To Ensure That The Unbelievers In Corinth Noticed A Difference In The Christians – Especially In How They Worshiped Their Savior, Jesus Christ!
 - Do We Show This Difference In Our Dress?
 - Paul Is Primarily Talking About Times Of Worship!
 - When There Is Prayer & Prophecy / Or Today / Preaching & Teaching Of The Word Of God!
 - Do We Show A Difference In Our Dress:
 - When We Worship The Lord?
 - From The Way The World Dresses When They Worship?
 - Our Society & Our Culture Has Its Own Idols!
 - Maybe Not Made Of Wood / Stone!
 - But Idols That Are Flesh & Blood!
 - Like Rock Stars! What Do They Wear To Their Rock Concerts? Not Much!
 - Or Idols That Are Made Of Leather!
 - Footballs / Basketballs / Baseballs / Soccer Balls! What Does The World Wear To Their Sports Games?
 - When We Wear The Same Things When We Come To Worship The Lord:
 - That The World Wears When They Worship Their Idols:
 - It Shows Very Little Difference! And It Shows Very Little Respect!
 - This Is Why We Ought Not To Dress Down When We Come To Together To Pray & To Worship!
 - It Is Not About Making Unbelievers More Comfortable – It Is About Showing A Proper Respect & Reverence To The Lord Who Saved Us!
 - We Are To Dress For Respect!
 - But There Are Other Reasons!
 - Because Of Our Duties!
 - 11:7-9 - “For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. / For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. / Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man!”
 - God Had Given Each One Of Us A Special Role & Special Responsibilities:
 - That Go Along With Our Genders!
 - Men Were Created:
 - In The Image Of God & For The Glory Of God!

- And If You Are A Man – What You Wear When You Worship God:
 - Reflects On Your Attitude & Respect Towards Him!
- Men Are To Dress:
 - In A Way That Is Masculine In Our Culture & That Displays Our Love & Respect For Our Authority! God!
- Women Were Created:
 - To Be The Glory Of Men! Especially Her Husband!
 - And, By The Way, Ought To Be Loved, Treasured & Cherished In That Way!
- And If You Are A Woman – What You Wear When You Worship God:
 - Reflects On Your Attitude & Respect For Your Husband & For The Lord!
- Women Are To Dress:
 - In A Way That Is Feminine In Our Culture & That Displays Your Love & Respect For Your Authority! For Your Husband / Father / The Lord!
- We Are To Dress For Respect!
- Because Of Our Decorum!
 - 11:10 - “For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels!”
 - In The Corinthian Church:
 - A Woman’s Headcovering Was A Sign / Symbol Of Submission To Her Husband!
 - And His Leadership - As Well As To The Leadership Of The Church - And The Leadership Of The Lord!
 - And In Our Church Today:
 - There Ought To Be A Sign / Symbol Of A Woman’s Submission To Her Husband!
 - Not To Humiliate The Woman!
 - But To Honor Her Husband & To Honor The Lord!
 - We Are All To Dress For Respect!
 - And One Of The Reasons For This Display Of Respect & Submission:
 - Here, In 11:10, It Says: “Because Of Angels!”
 - What Does This Mean?
 - Not Entirely Sure - Many Explanations Have Been Given - But One Thing Is Sure - Heaven Itself Is Watching How We Live Amongst Each Other / Relate To One Another / And Submit To One Another!
 - Perhaps This Is Mentioned, Because At One Point In The Past, Many Of The Angels Did Not Submit To The Authority & Headship Of God, And Fell From Heaven, Along With The Devil! Perhaps This Is Mentioned As A Warning!
 - But Submission - Especially Here - Between A Woman & Her Man - Either A Husband Or A Father - Is Important - Not Just In The Home, But In The Church As Well!
 - And How We Dress For Worship Is Just One Way To Show That Submission!

3. ***The Response To Our Dress:***

- Another Important Thing To Realize:
 - When We Come To These Verses - Is That Paul Never Issues Rules Just For Rules Sake!
 - Sometimes When Having An Activity With Teens Or Children - One Of The Rules I Have Is That I Reserve The Right To Make Up Rules As We Go Along! God Does Not Do That! Paul Is Not Doing That!
 - For Paul:
 - The Issue Is Not About A Rule:
 - It Is About Our Response To The Lord, And To The Authorities He Has Placed In Our Lives!
 - And This Should Be Our Focus As Well!
 - How We Respond To & Respect The Authorities In Our Lives Should Be Seen!
 - Even Through What We Wear!
 - How Can We Respond To The Lord In This Area?
 - And How Can We Apply These Verses To Our Lives Today?
 - Remember Who Your Authority Is!
 - Remember The Religious Context Of These Verses!
 - Remember That You Are To Show Your Respect & Response To Your Authority!
 - For Men:
 - Your Heart Is The Main Issue!

- Do You Respect The Lord?
- Have You Responded To The Lord?
- If So - Then Dress For Respect!
 - Dress According To The Role God Has Given You!
 - You Are A Man, And Ought To Dress In A Masculine Way!
 - To Show That You Are Made In The Image Of God & That You Are Made For His Glory!
 - This Can Be Applied In Every Culture!
 - Dress For Worship In A Way That Shows The World That There Is A Difference!
 - Not Like You Are Coming To A Concert Or Attending A Sporting Event!
 - Even Today - Though This Is Changing - There Is Still A Way To Show Respect In What You Wear!
 - Even Today - Taking One's Hat Off Is A Sign & Symbol Of Respect!
- For Women:
 - Your Heart Is The Main Issue!
 - Do You Respect The Lord & Your Man?
 - Have You Responded To The Lord?
 - How Are You Responding To Your Man?
 - If So - Then Dress For Respect!
 - Dress According To The Role God Has Given You!
 - You Are A Woman & A Wife & A Daughter, And Ought To Dress In A Feminine Way!
 - To Show That God Designed You As The Glory & Treasure Of Man!
 - This Too Can Be Applied In Every Culture!
 - Dress For Worship In a Way That Shows The World That There Is A Difference!
 - You Can Do This By Wearing Modest, Feminine Clothes That Do Not Draw Attention To Yourself In An Undue Fashion!
 - And You Can Still Do This By Wearing A Modest, Feminine Headcovering!
 - As Many Christians Still Do!

Conclusion:

1. When It Comes To Our Worship Of The Lord:
 - I Think Paul's Main Point Is Clear:
 - We Are To Dress For Respect!
 - Not Our Own - But Out Of Respect For The Authorities God Has Placed In Our Lives!
 - And Even Though These Verses May Be Difficult:
 - For Us To Interpret & To Apply In Our Times:
 - The Most Important Thing:
 - Is Our Response! To The Lord & To Our Authorities!
2. How Will You Respond?
 - In Humility? In Honor?
 - How We Respond:
 - Will Show What Is Going On In Our Hearts!

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