

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Men & Women, Then & Now

I Corinthians 11:2-16

Reading God's word from three perspectives:

- 1) Read it in light of our current norms of faith & culture
- 2) Read it light of the times it was written & received
- 3) Read it in light of God's original, perfect purpose

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Vs. 2, Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep **the traditions** just as I delivered them to you.

- "traditions" = Ordained practices of faith

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Our societal norms today regarding men & women are contrary to God's word

- We dare not ever evaluate God's word according to social standards

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Understanding it as written & received requires looking at God's original ordination

- And the consequences of choosing our own way instead
- Which Paul does here, to reveal their norms in light of God's perfection

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When we discuss the condition & consequence of sin-stained people...

- We're always going to compare it to God's original, uncorrupted state
- God is always in the process of restoring us to His perfection

The lasting consequences of sin are **NEVER** what God created...

- But contrary to it, and **man's fault...** Not God's

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*Bridling against sin's consequences is only evidence of **unsubmitted** independence*

- Righteousness still resides in surrender & submission to God
- Surrender wasn't needed until we were **separated** by sinful independence
- **Uncorrupted harmony**, with God & each other was the original normal

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Vs. 3, But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

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With the Temple of Aphrodite as the spiritual center of the city culture,

- It's not surprising that women were seen in a dominant role
- A role contrary to God's ordination. **Why?**

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Genesis 1:26-28, Man's dominion authority

- First in God's behalf, then with each other

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Genesis 2:18-24, Made for the **interdependence** of oneness

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Genesis 3:1-6 & 16, The sin & judgement of independence

Vs. 4-7, Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

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This is not about hair style

- It's about **independence** – vs – **surrender to God**
- Eve chose to act **independently** of both God & her husband
- When Adam joined her, they became **interdependent in sin** instead of righteousness

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The devil was the source of her temptation to disobedience

- Now she became **the source of temptation** to her husband
- She did not include him in her decision
- She is now guilty of her sin & tempting him to sin

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Vs. 8-10, For man is not from woman, but woman from man. Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. (**Gen. 2:18**) For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

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"Because of the angels." ??????

- Some teachers make their best reasoned attempt at this
- Some make wild guesses, wanting to appear insightful
- Some honest scholars say, "I don't know."

Genesis 3:16 is not about **domination**

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

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"multiply your sorrow and your conception" – Why?

- 1) Sin brings **sorrow & pain**. It corrupts pleasure.
- 2) You're going to need more children, now that **they will be dying**.

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"Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." – Why?

- 1) She grasped for **independent authority**, rather than shared interdependence
- 2) Sin brings **the opposite** of what we rejected

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*Sin is **not a mistake**. It is a **deliberate choice** to violate what is right & true*

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Vs. 11-12, Nevertheless, **neither is man independent** of woman, **nor woman independent** of man, **in the Lord**. For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.

- **God didn't put us here for independence**

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Matthew 20:25-28 – Serve, rather than demanding your preference.

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Ephesians 5:25-28 – Husbands, Christ doesn't impose authority. Neither should you.

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Philippians 2:3-5, Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem others better than himself**. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus**

Vs. 23-15, Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.

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"Judge among yourselves." – *This is not about legalism any more than food is.*

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Vs. 16, But if anyone seems to be **contentious, we have no such custom**, nor do the churches of God.

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Why is Paul writing to them? Because of their divisiveness.

- *This is not something to divide over.*
- *Pride divides. Love prefers.*

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I John 4:17 & 19, In this, **love is perfected among us** so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment, for **we are as He is in this world**... We love because He first loved us.

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What is the issue? *Leadership, fellowship, wisdom, food, authority, legal disputes, marriage...*

- *Are we loving, serving & preferring like Christ?*
- *If not, we're the problem*