

A painting of a church with a bell tower and a cross on top. The church is set against a background of warm, orange and red hues. The entire image is framed by thick, dripping paint in various colors: orange, red, blue, and dark brown. The paint drips are thick and textured, creating a 'messy' or 'splattered' effect around the central image of the church.

1 Corinthians

MESSY CHURCH
MIGHTY CHRIST

Instructions About Head Coverings

Main Idea

First Corinthians 11:2-16 reminds believers that God cares about our heart attitude toward corporate worship, and the ways that we outwardly approach it, since those externals reveal our hearts.

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold fast to the traditions just as I delivered them to you. ³ But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ. ⁴ Every man who prays or prophesies with something on his head dishonors his head. ⁵ Every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since that is one and the same as having her head shaved...

⁶ For if a woman doesn't cover her head, she should have her hair cut off. But if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her head be covered.

⁷ A man should not cover his head, because he is the image and glory of God. So too, woman is the glory of man. ⁸ For man did not come from woman, but woman came from man. ⁹ Neither was man created for the sake of woman, but woman for the sake of man...

¹⁰ This is why a woman should have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. ¹¹ In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, and man is not independent of woman. ¹² For just as woman came from man, so man comes through woman, and all things come from God. ¹³ Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴ Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair it is a disgrace to him...

¹⁵ but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her as a covering. ¹⁶ If anyone wants to argue about this, we have no other custom, nor do the churches of God.

1 Corinthians 11:2

Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold fast to the traditions just as I delivered them to you.

1 Corinthians 11:7-9

⁷ A man should not cover his head, because he is the image and glory of God. So too, woman is the glory of man. ⁸ For man did not come from woman, but woman came from man. ⁹ Neither was man created for the sake of woman, but woman for the sake of man.

1 Corinthians 11:3

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

***Kephale* = Head – Source, Authority, Preeminence?**

Ephes 5:23...

...the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church.

When we think about 11:3 in particular, Paul doesn't restrict himself exclusively to husbands and wives. It doesn't follow from this that every man is the head of every woman in the congregation. Instead, Paul thinks more generally and cosmically—we could say ecclesiologicaly—in the passage, and thus in verse 3 he reflects on the creational differences between men and women...

Paul's instructions, then, naturally apply in a specific way to the marriage relationship, but his main concern in this text is not marriage but the adornment of women in the corporate assembly.

Thomas Schreiner

1 Corinthians 11:4-6

Every man who prays or prophesies with something on his head dishonors his head. ⁵ Every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since that is one and the same as having her head shaved. ⁶ For if a woman doesn't cover her head, she should have her hair cut off. But if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her head be covered.

1 Corinthians 11:7

A man should not cover his head, because he is the image and glory of God. So too, woman is the glory of man.

1 Corinthians 11:11-12

In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, and man is not independent of woman. ¹² For just as woman came from man, so man comes through woman, and all things come from God.

1 Corinthians 11:10

(Therefore) This is why a woman should have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

Luke 15:10

I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents.

If there's ever an indication of a perpetual ordinance in the church, it is that which is based on an appeal to Creation.

R.C. Sproul

First Corinthians 11:2-16 does raise an overarching issue that is faced by every generation of worshippers of Jesus Christ: God genuinely cares about your heart attitude toward corporate worship, AND the ways that you outwardly approach corporate worship.