

## Tradition Or Truth

Head Covering –

1 Cor. 11:1-16

God’s Headship in Christ is Supreme

“*And He (God) put all things under His (Christ’s) feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all*” (Ephesians 1:22-23).

“*That in all things He may have the preeminence*”

(Colossians 1:18)

This section deals with headship

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## The Biblical Meaning of ‘Head’

‘Head’ means ‘to have authority over’ as in ‘Headmaster’, not as in ‘Source’ (of a river).  
“The authority or direction of God...” (Vine)

- The Head controls the body.
- Otherwise the body becomes dysfunctional.

It is important that we submit to His authority

“*If you love Me, keep My commandments*”  
John 14:15;21-23

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## The Value of Symbols

There are four in this chapter under two headings:

“*Now I praise you...*” v. 2

- Man’s uncovered head
- Woman’s covered head

“*I do not praise you*” v. 17

- The bread
- The cup

Symbols are only of value as we understand their meaning – but all are of value.

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## The Divine Order – Apostolic Authority

a. ‘*Imitate me...keep the traditions*’ (1 Cor. 11:1-2) i.e. ‘the things delivered’, ‘to hand down’ (Vine).

b. As taught by the apostles “*everywhere in every church*” - 1 Cor. 4:17; Acts 16:4; 2 Thes. 2:15.

c. “*We have no such custom*” (1 Cor. 11:16) is ‘no other customary usage, practice, force of habit’.

“*If any one is disposed to be contentious, we recognize no other practice, nor do the churches of God*” RV.

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## The Divine Order - Headship

1. God over Christ - 1 Cor. 11:3
  2. Man over woman - 1 Cor. 11:3
  3. Christ over man - 1 Cor. 11:3
  4. Husband over wives - Eph. 5:22-33
  5. Parents over children - Eph. 6:1-4
  6. Masters over servants – Eph. 6:5-9
  7. World leaders over nations – Rom. 13:1-7
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## The Symbols of God’s Authority over the Church that manifest His glory

- Glory is visible manifestation of an inward nature –

- Something from within manifested without –

Three Glories:

- a. Man, the glory of God - made by God for God.
- b. Women, the glory of man - made from man for man and for God.
- c. A woman’s hair her glory – enhances her beauty.
- d. Man, the glory of God, to be uncovered – symbol of Christ’s headship - 1 Cor. 11:4, 7.
- e. Women, the glory of man, veils her glory – symbol of man’s headship - 1 Cor. 11:5-7.

f. Thus recognizing that Christ is present and His glory alone to be seen – John 1:14; 2 Cor. 4:4.

What Paul taught here is opposite the O.T. practice where priests covered - and men still cover in synagogues to this day.

- These symbols are a great privilege -  
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### How is this Authority Revealed?

a. “The Father loves the Son...” - John 5:20-22.

b. “Christ also loved the Church...” - Eph. 5:25.

c. “Husbands, love your wives...” - Eph. 5:25.

This love is sacrificial, serving and seeking the wellbeing of others. The Father’s love presents us perfect in the Son. So husbands should love their wives, providing, protecting and helping them to achieve their full potential.

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### The reasons given are Theological, not Cultural

1. The order of creation - woman is from and for man - 1 Cor. 11:8-9; Gen. 2:18-25

2. In the Lord both are dependent on Christ - 1 Cor. 11:11 and Gal. 3:28.

b. In procreation both are dependent on each other - 1 Cor. 11:12.

This removes any feeling of superiority, it leaves no room for fleshly power control.

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### What About the Angels?

They are spectators to the church submitting

1. To the creation order,

2. To Christ’s headship over the Church,

in contrast to the rebellion of fallen angels and the world system around us - 1 Cor. 11:10.

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### Lucifer, Cherubim and Coverings

Lucifer – the anointed cherub who covered – Eze. 28:14

Adam and Eve - and covering – Genesis 3:21,24

The Tabernacle - and coverings – Exodus 26:31

Covering indicated something hidden and something revealed.

In the church

Woman’s glory hidden, God’s glory revealed

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### The Final Appeal is to Nature

(1 Cor. 11:13-16).

a. Long hair dishonors man.

b. Long hair is a woman’s glory, a natural ‘mantel’.

Two coverings (different Greek words) are in view – her natural hair and a veil for that hair.

“If any one is disposed to be contentious, we (the apostles) recognize no other practice, nor do the churches of God” (1 Cor. 11:16 RV).

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