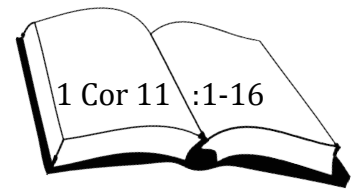


The Head Covering

1 Corinthians
Lesson 20
Weds 7/11/2018



Chapter 11 begins a section that deals primarily with different aspects of the worship assembly, and goes through the end of chapter 14.

The topic of women wearing a head covering may not be prominent now, but in recent decades was a significant source of conflict in the church. The goal for this lesson is not to convince you what to think, but for you to be able to reach your own conclusion on this text and support why you conclude that.

The meaning: Although there are lots of variations, there are 3 general lines of thought: **(1)** The woman's hair is her covering; **(2)** Wearing a head covering was part of the 1st century culture and doesn't apply today; **(3)** Women should wear a head covering when in spiritual activities, even today.

Considerations: To help you as you study, **(a)** Read the text from the NKJV if you use a different translation. The wording is more "objective" and doesn't slant your thinking as much; **(b)** realize that the word translated into "covered" does not mean an external cover like a veil – it simply means "covered" – except in vs 15, where the word for "covering" does mean "a covering"; **(c)** We don't know exactly what was going on in the church at Corinth, but there were apparently women engaging in spiritual activities that were violating what Paul is addressing in this section; **(d)** A temple to Aphrodite – among others – was in Corinth. Reportedly, the temple prostitutes had shaved heads, and it is thought that women in their culture who were of low morals adopted a short man-like haircut. **(e)** Paul is making one main point through these verses, but argues it from several directions to drive his point home.

1. In verse 2, Paul praises them for holding to "the traditions" – is this referring to human traditions, or what? [consider vs 1, and also the time frame when this book was written]
2. While we may not understand the specifics of their culture, the principles Paul is teaching are based on some facts.
 - (a)** What is the fact in vs 3 that his teaching is based upon?
 - (b)** What is the application that comes out of this, in vs 4-5?
 - (c)** What is the principle behind this application?

3. (a) Paul uses more Bible facts in vs 7-9 to also argue his point. What are these facts?
- (b) What applications does he make from this, in vs 7 & 10? [be aware that the phrase “a symbol of” is not actually in the original texts, and was added by English translators to try to help explain]
- (c) What principle is behind this application? [same principle as above!]
4. So that no one mis-applies what he is saying in vs 7-10, Paul gives a side explanation in vs 11-12. What is his point here? (How was he concerned they would misapply his prior point from vs 8-9?)
5. (a) Paul now turns to common sense or “nature itself” to argue the point from another direction. What is his point in vs 13-15?
- (b) Do you think this point is a “fact” – always true – or was just true in their culture?
6. Verse 16 seems especially helpful in understanding this. Paul addresses anyone who was refusing to abide by what? [again, consider the NKJV]
7. SO:
- (a) What is the principle from all this that still applies today? [since it is based on the facts presented in vs 3 & 7-9]
- (b) What is your conclusion about the “covering” for women in our culture today?