



PREACHING THE CROSS
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

Celebrating Subordination & Gender Distinctions in Worship: Part 1

Sunday, November 20, 2016

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TEXT: 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

True followers of Jesus Christ honor the divine principles of subordination and gender distinctions established by God especially in worship.

I. AN ARGUMENT FROM CHRISTOLOGY AND CULTURE (11:2-6)

A. The Principle of Subordination (11:3)

1. The Meaning of "Head"

Paul uses the word *head* metaphorically to set forth the idea of subordination. Hence, *head* refers to authority.

2. The Application of the Concept of "Head"—*Functional*

- a. Christ/Man**
- b. Man/Woman**
- c. God/Christ**

B. The Principle of Distinction in Worship (11:4-6)

1. The Meaning of "Has Something on the Head"

In the Greek language, the literal meaning is "something down from the head." It can either denote some *material* which covers the head and flows down from the head, like a veil, or *long hair* that flows down from the head.

2. The Argument for Understanding the *Head Covering as Long Hair*

It would seem more natural to understand the phrase "down from the head" as referring to long hair.

a. Historically

In the mid-first century, men with long, loose hair styles or hair tied into a ponytail were considered effeminate and associated with homosexuality (1 Cor 6:9-11).

By the late first century and early second century women sought quasi-male status by going to public baths, by training to fight, or by hunting. They would cut their hair short in an effort to minimize the gender distinction.

b. Contextually

- (1) The text never mentions head gear, hats or veils.
- (2) The text describes man as disgracing his head by “having something on his head” [hanging down] when praying or prophesying (11:4), and this disgrace is connected to having long hair (11:14).
- (3) The text instructs the woman to pray and prophesy with her head covered because not to do so is a disgrace (11:5-6), especially when her *long hair* is given to her as her glory and for a covering (11:15).

II. AN ARGUMENT FROM CREATION (11:7-12) [Part 2: Next Week]

- A. The Image and Glory of God is Man (11:7a)
- B. The Glory of Man is Woman (11:7-10)
- C. The Mutual Dependence of Man and Woman to Each Other (11:11-12)

III. AN ARGUMENT FROM COMMON SENSE (11:13-16)

- A. Nature Itself Distinguishes Between the Sexes (11:13-14)
- B. The *Hair* is Designed to Distinguish Between the Sexes (11:14-15)

CONCLUSION