

"THE QUESTION OF THE HEAD COVERING"

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Continued from November 7th

Independent Baptist - Keeseville NY
Sunday @ 7:00 pm - Nov. 14th, 2010

Introduction: In chapters 11-14 Paul addresses three areas which deal with behavior in the public worship service of the church – First – What men and women should or should not wear on their heads (11:2-16); Second – Proper conduct during the Lord's Supper (11:17-34); and third – The use and abuse of spiritual gifts (chapters 12-14). The passage before us this evening (11:2-16) will deal with the question of male headship and female subjection symbolized by the woman wearing a head covering and the man not wearing one when praying or prophesying (11:4-5). As Ray Stedman says, with a touch of humor, "It used to be that the focus of the chapter was on the question, 'Should Women Wear Hats in Church?' but looking over this congregation, I can see that is a long past issue. It has now become a question, not so much of women wearing hats in church, but of whether they are going to wear the pants at home!"

A few preliminary remarks concerning the passage:

1. Reasons I do not believe that Paul based his instructions concerning women wearing a head coverings, and men not having their head covering while praying or prophesying in the church meeting on the culture in Corinth - though historical context must always be taken into consideration when seeking to interpret Scripture.
 - ▶ Paul based his reasoning upon theological and biblical grounds
 - ▶ Paul also speaks of things that are universal
 - › Order in creation
 - › The Divine pattern of authority
 - › The head covering was not unique to Corinth but standard practice in all the churches
2. A woman's hair, though her natural "covering" is not the head covering Paul is referring to throughout the passage - if it was then verses 5-6 make no sense
3. It is quite evident from verse 5 that women were in fact praying and prophesying in the church service.

Four major questions that may help us see what the teaching of this passage is:

1. WHAT IS THE HEAD COVERING?

2. WHO IS TO WEAR A HEAD COVERING?

3. WHY – OR WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE HEAD COVERING

A. THE DIVINE PATTERN OF AUTHORITY vvs. 3-6

B. THE DIVINE ORDER IN CREATION vvs. 7-9

C. THE DIVINE OBJECT LESSON TO THE _____ v. 10

D. A DIVINE ANALOGY OF _____ vvs. 13-15

E. THE DIVINE CUSTOM OF ALL THE _____ v. 16

Paul is not supporting a custom per se - BUT a principle with which the custom was linked

4. **WHEN** ...

A. SHOULD A _____ HAVE HER HEAD COVERED?

B. SHOULD A _____ NOT HAVE HIS HEAD COVERED?

CONCLUSION:

Men -

Women -

When women minister -