

18 – WOMEN & WORSHIP (1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16)

I. The Cultural Issue (1 Corinthians 11:2-6)

A. The Commendation (1 Corinthians 11:2)

- Paul praises them for applying his teaching to their lives.

B. The Problem (1 Corinthians 11:3-6)

1. The Issue of Headship (1 Corinthians 11:3)

- Paul presents the divine order of authority.

2. Dishonorable Worship (1 Corinthians 11:4-6)

a. On the Part of Men (1 Corinthians 11:4)

- Men dishonor God when they pray with their heads covered.

b. On the Part of Women (1 Corinthians 11:5-6)

(1) The Dishonor (1 Corinthians 11:5a)

- Women dishonor God when they pray with their heads uncovered.
- The Corinthian women threw off their cultural dress in worship.

(2) The Public Shame (1 Corinthians 11:5b-6)

- Paul tells them it is the same as if they had shaved their heads.
- A woman with a shaved head brought public shame.
- Therefore, a woman was to cover her head in worship.

II. The Creation Order (1 Corinthians 11:7-12)

A. The Issue of Glory (1 Corinthians 11:7)

- A man should not cover his head because he reflects the image of God.
- A woman reflects the glory and image of man.

B. The Creative Origin (1 Corinthians 11:8-9)

- In creation, woman was created for man.

When Church Becomes Messy: First Corinthians

C. The Implication (1 Corinthians 11:10)

- Women must reflect the divine order in their worship.
- Paul reminds them that they are being watched by angels.

D. The Issue of Interdependence (1 Corinthians 11:11-12)

- Men and women are interdependent and complement each other.

III. The Natural Order (1 Corinthians 11:13-16)

A. The Call to Judge Themselves (1 Corinthians 11:13)

- Paul calls them to judge the issue for themselves.

B. The Cultural Norm (1 Corinthians 11:14-15)

1. For Men (1 Corinthians 11:14)

- In Paul's day, it was not normal for men to have long hair.

2. For Women (1 Corinthians 11:15)

- God gave women long hair as a natural covering.
- The issue is maintaining the distinctiveness between man and woman.

C. The Practice Among Other Churches (1 Corinthians 11:16)

- Paul wanted the Corinthians to hold the line against self-indulgent individual excess.
- Paul pointed out that this was the universal custom among the churches.