

Sermon: Women's Role in the Church

Text: [1 Corinthians 11:2-16 ESV](#)

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Introduction: There may not be any more emotionally-charged topic, today, than what we are looking at this morning. Certainly there are discussions on doctrines, on baptism and spiritual gifts which can become heated, but when we start talking about women's role in the church (and they are sitting with us) free expression of one's thoughts and beliefs may go unspoken. This issue is increasingly a divisive topic and has literally caused churches to split.

Contrary to some representations of Paul and his relationship to women, Paul actually elevated the position of women in the Church. Myths that need to be dispelled are:

I. Paul Hated _____.

II. Men and Women Are _____ Differently.

III. We Need to _____ the Church for the Culture.

Conclusion: If you ever believe a never-before-heard understanding of Scripture, do not be fooled by slick presentations or by people with no real understanding of God's Word. [Verses 2 and 16](#) are like bookends to this section of Scripture, and Paul is simply trying to tell them that novel or culturally-accepted understandings should not be followed.

[1 Corinthians 11:2, 16 ESV](#) 2 Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. 16 If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.

[1 Corinthians 11:2-16 ESV](#)

Head Coverings

2 Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. 3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife[a] is her husband,[b] and the head of Christ is God. 4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, 5 but every wife[c] who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. 6 For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head. 7 For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. 8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 10 That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.[d] 11 Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; 12 for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God. 13 Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered? 14 Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, 15 but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering. 16 If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.

Footnotes

[a] 1 Corinthians 11:3 Greek gune. This term may refer to a woman or a wife, depending on the context

[b] 1 Corinthians 11:3 Greek aner. This term may refer to a man or a husband, depending on the context

[c] 1 Corinthians 11:5 In verses 5–13, the Greek word gune is translated wife in verses that deal with wearing a veil, a sign of being married in first-century culture

[d] 1 Corinthians 11:10 Or messengers, that is, people sent to observe and report