



ADDRESSING THE ISSUES "Gender Issues" 1 Corinthians 11:1-16

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There's nothing new about gender issues. Paul addressed them in Corinth with reference to worship. The particulars differ, the principles still apply to us.

I. Approaching the Confusion.

A. A summary of the teaching.

1. The matter of "headship." vv. 3-6
 - a. God, Christ, and Man all exercise headship. v. 3
 - b. Men worship with heads covered – shame the head. v. 4
 - c. Women worship with heads uncovered – likewise. v. 5
 - i. She might as well be bald! v. 6
 - ii. But that is disgraceful too!
2. The matter of "image" and "glory." vv. 7-10
 - a. Man is the "image and glory of God." v. 7a
 - b. Woman is the "glory of man." v. 7b
 - c. Woman created "from" man and "for" man. vv. 8-9
 - d. Woman should have "authority on her head." v. 10
 - i. Because she is man's glory.
 - ii. Because of the angels.
3. The matter of interdependence. vv. 11-12
 - a. "In the Lord" man and woman are interdependent.
 - b. Woman came from man, but man is born of woman.
 - c. Everything is dependent on the Lord.
4. The matter of the nature of things (cultural norms). vv. 13-15
 - a. Men don't wear long hair.
 - b. Women's hair is their glory and covering.

B. A summary of the problems.

1. We're not sure what Paul is responding to.
2. The problem of "head" (Gk. *kephale*).
 - a. Physical head.
 - b. Ruler of community.
 - c. Source of origin.
3. First century Corinth culture varies from ours (e.g. veiling, hair).
4. The problem of man/husband, woman/wife (Gk. *aner, gyne*).

II. Arriving at Conclusions.

- A. Women should pray and prophesy in the assembly.
- B. "Headship" and "interdependence" are to be balanced in relationships.
- C. Christians should be sensitive to cultural norms.
- D. Men and women are different – *"vive la difference."*

III. Avoiding the Contusions. v. 16

Don't be "contentious" about any of this!

Points to Ponder: Do I draw my ideas and attitudes about gender from Scripture? If so, how does it work out? If not, where do I get my ideas?