



{Large Group Study #3}

Worship in the church at Corinth had become disorderly. The congregation was acting immaturely in seeking self-gratification and self-glorification. Paul addresses this problem the same way that he has addressed all of the church's problems: by moving them away from man-centeredness and back toward God-centeredness through reminding them of the Gospel – reminding them that everything they have that is of eternal value has been given to them by God, beginning with their salvation through Christ Jesus in the greatest act of humility the Universe has known. The church owes everything to God, and so should do everything for His glory.

We cannot fully understand the subject of head-covering. What is apparent is that in first-century Corinth it was a cultural custom for women to wear head coverings in order to show subordination. Paul had apparently previously taught that women in the church should have their heads veiled when they prayed or prophesied. But the women at Corinth had ignored his teaching. Paul reminds them of why they should keep their heads veiled.

In 1 Corinthians 11 verses 1-16, Paul appeals to the creation order: God [the Father] is the "head" (authority) over Christ; Christ is the head over man; and man is the head over woman.

1. How do we know that equality and headship can co-exist in harmony?
2. Submission of a wife to her husband is part of God's creation design and NOT a result of the Fall. How might this truth help us to embrace submission as a good thing?
3. How does this passage encourage humility in both men and women?
4. Why should Christians not try to blur all distinctions between the sexes?
5. What is your personal response so far to God's design for men and women? Do you think God is pinpointing any way in which change is needed for you in this area?