

All Things Are From God (Part 3)
1 Corinthians 11:2-16

1. **Take Me Out to the Ball Game**

- a. **The stadium:** God expresses the glory of His Person in creation by bringing order out of chaos
- b. **The rules: The church (and the Christian) magnify God's glory in creation when they faithfully maintain God's order in creation for His glory**

2. **Let's Play Ball!**

a. **Pre-Game Commentary**

- i. Paul gives us one important example that explains how we might exalt God's glory by maintaining creation order in worship.
- ii. **"Nothing should distract worshipers from God or from holding others in respect on the basis of one group's intrusive social agenda."**
- iii. Neither misogyny or patriarchy but the quest for the full revelation of God's glory through God-given, God-honoring means by God-focused, Christ-exalting, Spirit-filled people.
- iv. (The heart and soul of this letter: Paul's theme for the next five chapters.)

b. **The Pitch and the Hit: (v. 2)** You have remembered and followed what I taught you.

- i. **1 Corinthians 11:2 (ESV) *Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.***
- ii. Traditions - the teachings of Jesus that inform all genuinely Christian faith and practice as opposed to the teachings of men that carry no weight with the faithful
- iii. Commended for faithfulness to the gospel and the teachings of Jesus

c. **The run to first base: (v. 3)** What I taught you fits a larger picture of God's work to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory by bringing order out of chaos.

- i. **1 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV) *But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.***
 - (1) Rather than focusing on the authority/source question, I think these three examples demonstrate that everything in the universe has a unique relationship that is ordered by God as evidence of His glory
 - (2) **God has arranged a distinctive uniqueness regardless of sameness**
 - (a) Fully integrated order
 - (b) Christ and man
 - (c) Husband and wife
 - (d) God the Son and God the Father
- ii. Yes, we ought to understand what Paul means about headship, and we will, but for now what I want you to see is that Paul sets forth the principle that in this world there is, even in relation to the Father and the Son, a divinely described order!
 - (1) There is a divinely described order between men and God, between

husbands and wives, and even between Christ and God.

- (2) There is a relationship that serves the glory of God and the joy of God's people and that relationship is characterized by divinely described order.

d. Tagging second: (v. 4-10) Dishonor/disgrace come when the divinely described order that brings glory to God is abandoned by Christians in favor of their own selfishness.

i. (v. 4-5) The context is worship - prayer and prophesying

- (1) **1 Corinthians 11:4-5 (ESV)** *⁴ Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, ⁵ but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.*

- (a) Sets public worship as the context for this teaching
- (b) Identifies both men and women as full participants in the worship service
 - (i) Later we will have to deal with what Paul means about women keeping silent in the church
 - (ii) But at this point Paul affirms women praying and preaching in public worship
 - 1) pray
 - 2) prophesy - to utter prophetic speech, to articulate an applied pastoral message, to preach
- (c) The issue here is not what they are doing but how they are conducting themselves when they are at worship
- (d) No surprise that Paul should follow the training example set by Jesus: it's always about the heart and the motives of the heart before it is about the action itself

ii. (v. 6-7) The subject is propriety

- (1) **1 Corinthians 11:6-7 (ESV)** *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.*

(2) Propriety within cultural contexts

- (a) Wives wore veils or head scarves as an indicator they were married, not available, and not looking.
- (b) If a married woman insists on rejecting the social norms of conduct that the culture recognizes to identify her as a woman of virtue, then she might as well go all the way and cut her hair off and look like a boy.
- (c) But to do so, in Roman cultural context, would be clearly identified as disgraceful.
- (d) And that act of defiance that leads to disgrace applies to

her, then through her to her husband, and through him to Christ, and ultimately to God.

- (e) Rebellion and selfishness in the simple matters of personal choices always, ultimately, reflects poorly on the glory of God

iii. (v. 8-10) **The point is order**

(1) **1 Corinthians 11:8-10 (ESV)** 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.*

(2) Because when a Christian conducts themselves with disgraceful public displays their conduct detracts and distracts others from the knowledge of the glory of the LORD inherent in creation order, married women, and by extension **all Christians, ought to retain the marks of decency, humility, morality, and faithfulness their culture will recognize.**

- (a) Wedding bands
- (b) Modest clothing
- (c) Selfless conduct
- (d) Enduring love and grace
- (e) Unwavering devotion to Christ

(3) Paul uses the word shames (Greek kataischyno) or brings shame in three verses (vv. 4–6). The whole issue turns on respect or lack of respect.

(a) First, this respect, or its opposite, shame, includes respect for God, for the subject is public worship.

(i) Even the angels (v. 10) show awe, reverence, and respect in the presence of God, using their “wings” as a covering.

(ii) **Isaiah 6:2 (ESV)** *Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.*

1) Why cover themselves? Do they have something to be ashamed of?

2) **No, they cover themselves as an act of worship and respect wanting nothing of their perfection to distract from the glory of the God they love and serve**

(iii) Adam & Eve, and their children, have cause to cover themselves

1) They rejected God’s glory, God’s covering

2) They failed to adequately cover themselves

3) They received adequate covering only through the grace and work of God, and

- through the blood of a sacrifice
- 4) We remain Adam's children in need of covering by God's work through the blood of the sacrifice of Jesus
 - 5) **For this reason, personal lifestyle choices, in private and in public, and especially when the church gathers for worship, should reflect the covering of glory God has extended to us in Jesus Christ**
 - 6) IF we have been covered by God through faith in Jesus Christ, do not remove your covering of grace and humility in order to draw attention to yourself.
 - 7) **Remain covered with humility and grace so that Christ, who is your God-provided covering, may bring glory to God. This bringing glory to God will increase your joy in God's glory.**

- (b) Second, what is worn or not worn serves as a mark of respect to one's husband or wife and to other members of the Christian congregation at worship. The verses on mutuality (vv. 7–12) underline this.
- (c) Third, the choice of appropriate attire is no less a matter of self-respect. It is quite possible that in vv. 4–5 the phrases shames his head and shames her head reflect a deliberate wordplay: head is the physiological "topmost," the representative feature of the self, but it also alludes, in the case of a man, to Christ, and, in the case of a woman, to her husband.

- (4) Paul insists that man as well as woman should not appear in public worship in a mode of attire that will reduce his self-respect and also (perhaps thereby) appear to demean Christ as his Lord and Head.
- (5) Any woman or man who intentionally dresses to draw attention to herself or himself in public worship distracts others from their focus on God, detracts from the worship God alone deserves, and actively attempts to steal God's glory for themselves. **While this ought not to be the case with Christians anywhere, it should be especially not true of us in public worship.**

e. Rounding third

- i. (v. 11-12) The key to this entire discussion is found in the answer to this question: "What lifestyle practices among Christians honor God by exalting the order He established in creation?"
- ii. **1 Corinthians 11:11-12 (ESV) 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.

- (1) Paul's example: the cultural means for maintaining the distinction between godly men and women who come together for worship.
- (2) **When God's people gather for worship, you should be able to tell who the godly men are and who the godly women are.**
- (3) If that distinction is not appropriately and adequately maintained by the congregation at worship and by the individual worshipers then love is impeded and there is something out of order in the church.

f. Slide at Home:

- i. **Everything comes from God and "everything" ought to serve Him by bringing Him glory and not distracting or redirecting worship from Him.**

- (1) God expresses His glory in creation by bringing order out of chaos
- (2) Christians, we honor God's glory when our personal choices conform to the wisdom of God reflected in the order He created

g. Post Home-run Commentary: (v. 13-16) *Observable order within nature points us to making lifestyle choices that prioritize and honor God in all His glory.*

- i. **1 Corinthians 11:13-16 (ESV)** 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.*
- ii. The whole world is full of the evidence of God's glory as He expressed it in creating order out of chaos.
- iii. Even within the boundaries and norms of otherwise secular and godless culture there are echoes of glory.
- iv. In all the churches of God, the glory of God is the living focus of the church.
- v. **So let it be with each of you.**

3. The Take-Away Questions

- a. Do my life style choices glorify God and bring honor to me?
- b. Does the way I dress, the way I talk, the way I behave, the way I think in public and in private, serve God's glory or my own ego?
- c. When I make the choices I make on a daily basis, do those choices demonstrate that Christ is the great love of my life or is it clear that I love myself most?
- d. **When I gather with God's people for worship, is it obvious through our personal or corporate choices that we are aligned with God for His glory or is what we do all about us?**

4. Post-Game Party

a. Paul's Goal

- i. Paul's goal for these believers and for us is love
 - (1) God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
 - (2) **God's self-sacrificing love for us beckons us to give ourselves in**

self-sacrificing love to Him.

- ii. The Holy Spirit endues our hearts with the love of God and love for God when we respond with faith to the call of God.

b. How do we respond

- i. **Micah 6:8 (ESV)** *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*
- ii. Do what is right and confirms with God's holiness and purity
- iii. Love the mercy God extends and live dependent on his compassion
- iv. **Trust Him, set aside selfishness, live for His glory, not for your own.**