



1 Corinthians 11:5-10

Head Coverings and Creation Order

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Public Praying and Prophesying

1 Corinthians 11:5 (ESV)

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.

- To prophesy is not to make a spontaneous utterance, but to speak of gospel truths
- Prophetic speech includes encouragement, edification and comfort
- These things must not be done dishonorably

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Avoid Shameful Actions

1 Corinthians 11:6 (ESV)

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.**

- Such shame is discussed in ancient literature from the time
- Argument from analogy: gender distinctions are important

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The Glory of Being Imagers of God

1 Corinthians 11:7 (ESV)

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.**

- The woman is a sign of honor to man and should be treated as such
- The glory ultimately comes from God
- The shameful has no place in Christian relationships and worship

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Creation Order and Purpose

1 Corinthians 11:8-9 (ESV)

For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

- Genesis 1:26-27 in light of Genesis 2:18-23
- Gender distinctions come from creation and cannot be erased for cultural reasons
- God comments on man's need in Genesis 2:18 = not good to be alone

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The Angels

1 Corinthians 11:10 (ESV)

That is why **a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head**, because of the angels.

- Most agree that this refers to good angels
- One key issue is that good angels have zeal to protect God's glory
- See Acts 12:22-23 about Herod Agrippa I
- See Ephesians 3:10

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Implications and Applications

- Christians have distinctions in gender but not in their honored status in Christ.

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One in Christ

Galatians 3:28, 29 (NASB)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, **there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

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Role Distinctions

Ephesians 5:21-23 (LEB)

being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ—wives to their own husbands as to the Lord, because **the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church** (he himself being the Savior of the body).

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