



Making Choices that Glorify God

1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16

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- ▶ THEME: For the believer, lifestyle choices ought always to glorify God, being directed by His Word and not by self-centered interests

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A Few Questions...

- ▶ Is this passage teaching that Christian women should be wearing head coverings whenever they are out in public?
- ▶ Or is this passage only dealing with head coverings in the context of corporate worship?
- ▶ Is this question of head coverings one that is based on a particular cultural and historical setting valid just for that time, or is it a principle based on God's created order that applies in every time and culture?

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A Few More Questions...

- ▶ What kind of head covering is Paul referring to when he says women should have their heads covered? A shawl? A veil? Both?
- ▶ What was the normal practice of women in the 1st century and what did it communicate?
- ▶ Did women in the U.S. who commonly wore hats to church prior to about 1960 have the right idea?

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A Bit of Cultural Context

- ▶ The normal practice for first century women
- ▶ Another case of the inappropriate exercise of Christian liberty?

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- ▶ Paul's Offering of Praise (2)
- ▶ A Foundational Principle: God's Hierarchical Design (3)
- ▶ The Cultural Application of God's Design (4-6)
 - ▶ An inappropriate practice for men (4)
 - ▶ An inappropriate practice for women (5-6)

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- ▶ Paul's Arguments Supporting Gender Distinctions (7-16)

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- ▶ Paul's Arguments Supporting Gender Distinctions (7-16)
 - ▶ A matter of glory (7)
 - ▶ The order of creation (8)
 - ▶ A difference in roles (9)
 - ▶ The observation of angels (10)
 - ▶ A point of clarification (11-12)
 - ▶ The cultural norm (13)
 - ▶ God's design of the human body (14-15)
 - ▶ The practice in all the churches (16)

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Implications & Applications

1. There are foundational principles in Scripture that stand unchanged regardless of time and place
2. The application of those foundational principles in a particular time and place will vary because the meaning of symbols and expressions change as cultures change
3. Our concern must be to make lifestyle choices that are honoring to God and that never stem from a personal agenda focused on ourselves
4. In keeping with God's design, we need to maintain any clear cultural distinctions between the genders
5. Recognize that if you step outside of a cultural norm, you are communicating a message. Is your message about you? Or is it about the glory of God?

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A Footnote:

All of us are to live according to God's design by willingly submitting to those God has placed in authority over us, not just in the church and in the home, but in other aspects of life as well. See Tom Pennington's sermon entitled, "How to Submit to Your Husband" given on September 13, 2015 for an outstanding treatment of this subject.