



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 28 Adornment vs. Arrangement
By Pastor Jody May 11/9/2025

1 Corinthians 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Uncommon Sense - *"God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."*

[CALL TO HEAR]

1 Corinthians 11:2-16 ESV

Head Coverings

²Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. ³But 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. ⁴Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, ⁵but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. ⁶For 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. ⁷For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. ⁸For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. ⁹Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. ¹⁰That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. ¹¹Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; ¹²for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God. ¹³Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, ¹⁵but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering. ¹⁶If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.

Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."



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People – “Thanks be to God.”

Pray

Illustration

Picture if you will, a world where a [federal judge gets perturbed over the high court's decision](#) that says people must identify on their passports by birth affirmed sex.

Where a government could shut down and be held captive by the legislative minority, based on a [medical budget that doesn't exist for people in the country illegally](#).

Where men could walk into female bathrooms, expose themselves to the ladies, and when complained about the ladies are [removed from gym member rolls](#).

Where in the market capital of the United States, [New York, a Socialist financed by shady Muslim pro-terrorists organizations](#), could win an election promising to redistribute the wealth of its' capitalists.

Now I could go on but those are just the headlines from this past week, and what they all show is that we live in a world that seems to not only to have lost its' moral compass but has lost its' ability to reason.

What the world needs to see now, is not love sweet love (Beatles/Dion Warwick). They need to see order in place of oblivion, they need to see a pure light in licentiousness, they need to have clarity instead of confusion, they need to live in mindfulness not mayhem, they need reason instead of riots. Family there is only one place on earth that can show our culture that sanity still exists, **and it is the church**. The church is the physical representation of God in this world, and the order He brings, so it is extremely important in how we order our lives, and that all begins with how we order ourselves in our public worship. In other words, how we conduct ourselves, starting in this room, tells the world that God still reigns, He is in control, and how He orders things is BEST for ALL people! That image is produced every week right here in this room.

Introduction



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What we have already read in this text this morning has been a heavily debated passage of scripture, not always, but at least since the explosion of the feminist movement in America going back to the 60s. Here's where that confusion comes from:

⁵but every wife who **prays** or **prophesies** with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.

You see women have always had a vital role in the life of the early church. In Acts 21 Phillip the evangelist's daughters were used to prophesy; **means to undisclosed the hidden meanings of God's Word**.¹ We know that Aquila and Priscilla were used to instruct Apollos to gain a fuller knowledge in the Lord in Acts 18, as a matter of fact those two get mentioned last as those who help in Paul's ministry at the conclusion of this letter (16:19). Even here in our passage today, we see the ministry of women in the church partly was to pray and prophesy but in a functional way as to bring about the glory of man.

With the movement of feminism this passage has been taken to mean, by women claiming to be feminists, they can serve at all levels in the church as long as their head is covered, whatever that means to them. In haste they left out the part of authoritative order and have used it to go around man, which does not bring Glory to God for it goes against His commands; that is self-glorifying action. That decision making is the construct and the fruit **NOT of good systematic theology** but of **pragmatic thinking** in light of a society devoid of male headship.

This passage was given by Paul to establish order in the Corinthian church for at this time in his world there was a [feminist movement](#) surging through the Roman world. Some believed it started with the church while others believed it started in the [Greco-Roman world](#). Here's what we do know, into that changing world along with the explosion of the Gospel, came the fact that God saves men and women individually through a gift of faith. A woman just like a man received from the true God: grace, redemption, reconciliation,

¹ προφητεῖω (*prophēteuō*). verb. **to prophesy**. *The act of revealing something that is hidden, disclosing the will of God, or foretelling the future.* Michael Scott Robertson, "[Divine Revelation](#)," in *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).



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justification, adoption, and a glorious future outside of her husband, for she was treated by her maker as an equal. Now you take the facts of that glorious theology and combine them with an evolving sociology of that day, and you bring that into a public display in the church, and you get what Paul is combatting with today (the throwing off all customs, the burn your bra moment). Instead of being a picture of order we have a picture of the Corinthian church becoming chaotic, because the women were combining new social freedoms with Gospel freedom and the physical display of that was causing a chaotic mess. It all revolved around a head covering, because when you did or did not wear that head covering, it meant something to the rest of that body.

Just like using your freedoms to eat food sacrificed to idols there must be some type of restrictions here for orderly worship. The problem was coming from a physical adornment vs. the divine arrangement God had provided in scripture, and that was what Paul is going to establish today for us. So, if we put it into a short sentence here is the just of the passage this morning.

MP:

God orders Worship according to Creational Headship.

To help us get a handle on this topic we are going to break this up the easiest way we can. **First**, we will hit on the call to a new orderly arrangement and that is to **practice a God-given submission**. The church cannot function until we all understand that we have something to sacrifice for the Kingdom, and that means for men and women there is something we must deny in ourselves in order to function as a church properly. **Secondly**, picking up on that theme from last week, we will talk about **glorifying God through creational order**. There is a reason why God made things a certain way, and that way glorifies Him, and that is the way it is to be done in the church so that He alone receives that glory. Thirdly, we **will accept God's BEST arrangement**, that is we all come to terms that to go against this concept is to go against God's Word and the church's early belief and functionality.

1. Practicing God-given Submission.



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² Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.

It may not seem like it to you, but Paul is engaging with Sarcasm once more. This is the second of four contentions that have been delivered to him by most likely by the trio of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus (16:17). That is, it is a problem that was specifically sent to Paul for help and correction. So, Paul is like, *isn't it grand how ya remember all that I have taught ya, now! You are remembering all the traditions we had in place, that I said to keep up with.* Obviously, he is jesting but it also means that when Paul left, the problem with 'head coverings' was not an issue, this is something new since he has left. But just to be sure, as all good parents have to at some point, kids need to know the 'why' behind a thing.

³ 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.**

Paul now in his explanation as 'why' they should keep with the head covering as the way it was, starts with the hierarchy of headship. **The head of Christ is God** – "Head" (kephalē) conveys real authority within an ordered relationship, so we have Christ is the head or authority of man, and the man is the head or authority over a woman, and Christ is under the authority of God.

It is also important here to clarify a theological concept. This text alludes, not to a difference in value in the Godhead, but it shows an economical difference. "Economic Ordering" refers to the distinct roles that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit assume in the works of creation and redemption; "ontological ordering" would mean a hierarchy of being within God. Christianity confesses the first and denies the second.² This is important for

² **LBCF 1689 2.3 God and the Holy Trinity**

This divine and infinite Being consists of three real persons, the Father, the Word or Son, and the Holy Spirit. (1 John 5:7; Mat 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14) These three have the same substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence without this essence being divided. (Exodus 3:14; John 14:11; 1 Cor 8:6) **The Father is not derived from anyone, neither begotten nor proceeding. The Son is eternally begotten of the Father. (John 1:14,18) The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. (John 15:26; Gal 4:6) All three are infinite and without beginning and are therefore only one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being.** Yet these three are distinguished by several distinctive characteristics and personal relations. This truth of the Trinity is the foundation of all of our fellowship with God and of our comforting dependence on him.



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us to grasp because I have heard a lot of crazy theology lately when it comes to Christology.

So, Paul is building his philosophy of order worship on hierarchal headship of the Trinity. It displays, if not anything at this point, not a lessening of one sex over the other, but that there is a role differentiation of which there can be no doubt.³

⁴Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, ⁵but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. ⁶For 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.

Back in those days there was a rhyme and reasoning to head coverings. For a man to wear a head covering in the Greco Roman world in Corinth would be to take part of their toga and pull it up over their head possibly imitating a woman, or more probable the pagan priests in the other temples. It was pretending to be something you were not like a mediator, one who speaks for God. For a Christian there is only one High Priest, one mediator, and He gets all the Glory! (that's what you have been reading in Hebrews this week)

But for the wife it was the opposite effect. If they went uncovered, it had a totally different meaning. The most basic of meanings, is that when you uncovered your hair and let it down, it signaled to others around you that you were an available woman or a promiscuous lady. That was something that the priestesses of Aphrodite would do, it was used as a lure to attract men to the temple. So, you could see if a woman conducted herself in such a way, it was a disgrace to her husband, and it would be very distracting in the church. I am not trying to be coarse about this, but you can imagine what it would do in our body if our ladies came dressed as a woman trying to sell her wares on a

³"Women are, in every sense, equal to men. In every sense, there is equality there, except in the area of assignment of a role or a duty within the framework of society. But what must be maintained in this is that there is equality but a difference in the assignment which God has given to a man and a woman. Each is equally important. Each is vitally important. Authority can't function without submission. They are mutually dependent." - John MacArthur



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street corner. The uncovered head in Corinth in the church for a woman was having that same effect.

Since Paul already addressed indecent sexual behavior, and perhaps their argument for the taking off the head dressing is about doing away with an unnecessary custom, then **just cut your hair so won't appear like a prostitute**. NO wait, long hair is a glory of a woman as well, and short hair is a disgrace! And Paul knows that no woman in her right mind wants to disgrace herself that way. So, Paul is like keep your glory please. But, more importantly, practice submission as God ordained it to reflect hierarchical headship.

Don't let the desire for personal freedoms disorder orderly worship.

Again, folks the world needs to see a church, not all caught up in trying to figure out how to display their worth physically, but they do need to see a church that honors one another in a form of submission that was modeled by Christ. Jesus is God but He lays down his equality in perfect submission to show the value of God (Pil 2:8). In like ways our world needs to see a people more concerned about showing God off by husbands and wives who are more concerned about how they glorify God by their God commanded submission.

Practicing submission in headship rejects feminism, it rejects the idol of individualism, and it rejects pragmatic thinking. Instead, practicing God honoring submission embraces a God ordered, God modeled hierarchical relationship that is more concerned about glorifying God over oneself, and that message is the sane message this world needs to hear.

2. Glorifying God through creational order.

⁷For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. ⁸For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. ⁹Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

Ok straight forward reading of this text, and why it should not be confusing for feminists, is that 'Man' is the image and the glory of God and woman being



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that she was created from man, shows that she is to bring to him/man glory. Glory for God therefore, for the woman that wants to bring that awareness of God to the world, that path lies here in her involvement in submission to man. Where does that come from?

Genesis 1:26-27 ESV

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Man was made for a job, that was to bring to God glory, and that glory would be revealed as he establishes dominion over creation. That is a command that has never gone away. While Christ has won the victory over Death and Devils, the earth is still ours, its' inhabitants, to influence towards the knowledge of God (Mat 28 exists in Gen 1). That is a mantle than man cannot lay down until the 2nd coming.⁴ That process though required help, help for the man to keep him going.

Genesis 2:18;21-22 ESV

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

⁴ - Christ, as the Last Adam, has definitively secured the dominion of humanity in himself and presently reigns over all things. Yet, until his return, mankind—especially the church united to Christ—still bears a real responsibility to exercise Godward dominion as faithful stewardship, chiefly through the Great Commission and secondarily through lawful vocations and family life.

How Scripture frames it

- Adamic mandate (Genesis 1:26-28): Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and rule. After the fall, this mandate continues but is frustrated by sin and curse (Genesis 3).

- Christ the Last Adam: Psalm 8; Hebrews 2:5-9; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Ephesians 1:20-23. Jesus has been crowned with glory and honor, all things are put under his feet, though we do not yet see everything in subjection. He fulfills the human vocation perfectly and reigns now.

- Church's task in this age: Matthew 28:18-20. With "all authority in heaven and on earth" already given to Christ, he commissions the church to disciple the nations. This is the new-covenant expression of dominion: not by sword or coercion, but by Word and Spirit—evangelizing, baptizing, teaching obedience.



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²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

The woman was made for man, it was not good for him to accomplish the task of dominion in this world alone. The woman is a helper fit for him, that matches him, that is also made in the image of God, co-equal, BUT made for a different function, to help the man.

For women the goal is not operation of spiritual gifting but using those gifts to help man bring glory to God.

Then that brings us back to the reasoning for head coverings.

¹⁰That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

The woman, by submitting to the cultural norms of that day, WEARING THE HEAD COVERING, brought to men, their husbands, the glory that was mandated from the beginning. In that way all she says and does, all that she prays for and prophesies to, works in accordance with and in help with what the man is ALREADY doing.

Ladies you want to bring glory to God in this world!? You want to combat the evil of unfiltered and uncontrolled feminism, which has invaded and destroyed our collegiate system and has fought against the unborn!? Stand up for the men in your life, learn to be submissive where it is required, enjoy the role that God gave you, and experience the blessing of that life! Prepare the next generation to do the same and unfortunately, as the left dies off killing their own line, God will be glorified in our obedience to the creational mandate!

And the angels, that approve of this plan, they that were there at the beginning, as the messengers of God, approve of these roles. Their attention IS upon rightful worship in the church. The inference is that they help in



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rightfully ordered worship of the saints in all of life. It is that important for a church to conduct itself in a way that brings Glory to God in ordered worship.

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.

OK last thing here all Paul is noting that there is now an interdependence on each other. There is not a greater value on one than the other, for the way that we multiply is to show equality in the creation. God determined in the creational order that men and women are produced in the same manner and function showing their equality. That distinguishes that either job is not more important than the other, but that they both have a different job/role to accomplish. This models the relationship in the Trinity. (Much like the relationship between a blindside tackle and the quarterback).

3. Accepting God's best arrangement.

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.

Last part today is to accept God's best arrangement for ordered worship. Paul is like judge for yourselves doesn't nature teach you the practicality of what is being said. The simplest translation of this text is, if a man wears his hair long to look like a woman it is a disgrace because that was not his calling. Likewise, a woman's hair displays her glory, it is a covering for her femininity. Therefore, embrace that calling, and in submission cover up those beautiful locks to give glory in the right way, to the man you are helping have dominion in this world!

Lastly, and here's the last word on this context if anyone is inclined to be contentious, 'we' the APOSTLES, have no such practice (uncovering of the head) nor do any of the churches that we have planted! It seems that many in



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our current evangelical world have overlooked that last verse, because not only have many women gone around men to exercise their gifting in a church, but they have also done so proclaiming themselves to be pastors/preachers when Paul has even clarified further in another letter.⁵

1 Timothy 2:11-15 ESV

¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

I just want to make sure that we all leave here today hearing the same thing, because this is a HOT TOPIC in today's church. Can women serve as pastors, or preachers? NO, why? Because again Paul builds that in the **Creational hierarchical order**, man was made for that job, and the woman was made to help him in it. Simple, and to go against that we are displaying not order but chaos, simple. And nature teaches us that women, ladies you are made different than men, your hearts are for care and nurturing, our hearts are for protection and provision, and that is what the calling of pastor/preacher is to do. Feed the Sheep and beat off the wolves. But ladies we are only as good as your ability to care for us in that endeavor.

Our next generation of male headship is only as good as our next generation of female help mates. I call on you now, accept God's best arrangement for your lives, and let's set ourselves apart so we may bring God glory!

[CALL TO OBEY]

1. Honor headship in gathered worship.

- Men: lead and pray with heads uncovered; repent of abdication and passive worship.
- Women: wear a head covering in stated worship; dress modestly, and learn quietly with all submissiveness.
- All: order prayer and praise "to the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit," refusing feminist and individualist distortions.

⁵ <https://www.gotquestions.org/women-pastors.html>



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2. Embody creational order in the home.

- Husbands/fathers: lead daily home worship; take initiative in provision, protection, and discipleship.
- Wives: gladly help, strengthen, and beautify your husband's work; use your gifts to advance his God-given calling.
- Parents: catechize your children in the goodness of male and female, teaching them to honor and live their created roles.

3. Guard the church's peace and practice.

- Elders: uphold apostolic order—no women preaching or holding ruling authority over men; encourage women's ministry to women and children.
- Members: refuse contentiousness; pursue unity by embracing the apostolic traditions and local church practice.
- All: adorn the gospel with good works, modesty, and reverence, so that ordered worship displays God's glory to angels and to the world.

MP:

God orders Worship according to Creational Headship.

Family may all we do bring glory to our God, and that starts with the adhering to creational headship in all places, as men and women both do their best to honor their head who is Christ.

Prayer

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. Christ understood that He had equality with God but chose not to grasp that while here on earth (Phil 2:6). Instead, He places Himself in subjection to the Father to fulfill His plans for all of creation. Where we fight against His reign as His servants Jesus was perfectly obedient establishing dominion over death and devils. Praise be to Him for His commitment to the Father!

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. As men we neglect our headship and too often, we cause strife by not leading the women in this world well. As women we neglect our nature to help the men in our lives by choosing to go against the created order. Jesus, for both our sakes, receives our punishment, and offers forgiveness, so we may live differently today, with the help of God. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – **“Christians, what do we believe?”** Congregation – recites:

Congregation - recites the LBCF 26.6. The Church Consists of Saints Who Are Committed to One Another

The members of these churches are saints by calling. They visibly manifest and show evidence of their obedience to the call of Christ through their profession and way of life. 12 They agree to walk together according to Christ's commands. They give themselves to the Lord and to one another by the will of God in submission to the ordinances of the Gospel. 13

12. Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2

13. Acts 2:41-42, 5:13-14; 2 Corinthians 9:13

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]



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[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that gives/establishes the creational order so that we may know the pattern to bring Him glory.

Go in the name of the Son, that served in perfect humility, and by his perfect submission, we have been redeemed to live for God not self.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that opens our eyes to the need of rightly ordered life and worship and helps us portray that to a world that desperately needs to see it.

[FELLOWSHIP CONVERSATIONS]

- Where do you see the clash between God's wisdom and our culture's pride most clearly, and how has that pressure touched your own heart and home?
- How does creational headship (1 Cor 11:3) shape the way we worship together on the Lord's Day? What would honoring that look like next Sunday for men and for women?
- In what ways do individualism or feminism show up in our attitudes or habits? What would repentance and reordered loves (ordo amoris) look like this week?
- Men/fathers: what is one concrete step you will take to lead home worship and shepherd your household? Women: what is one concrete way you will gladly help, strengthen, and beautify that leadership?
- How does Christ's humble obedience and the "foolishness" of the cross (1 Cor 1:25; Phil 2) reshape our view of authority, submission, and public modesty so that God—not self—gets the glory?



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