

1 Cor 11:2-16

Headship Theology teaching a man's leadership in the church - 1 Cor 11:2-5
It also goes by complementarianism or patriarchalism.

The word **Head** is interpreted by some as leader (head of a department). A male leader is the covering of a woman. Women used to wear head coverings to symbolize their spiritual covering.

If this is the case, then why do certain churches allow women to be pastors, preachers, teachers and leaders over adults?

When Paul used the Greek word **Kephale** –*Head*, he was referring to a real cultural custom of women wearing coverings over their heads. Women had long hair in Paul's day. No woman in the ancient world would have gone anywhere in public without her hair covered. It would have been too risqué...like wearing a bikini downtown.

Also a man with long hair would have conveyed the wrong message, sexually in that culture. Read 11:6-7

Bottom line: Paul instructed them to preserve gender distinctives (in dress and hair style) in the sexually confused culture for the sake of their witness for Christ.

What would be an appropriate application today?

Symbolic meaning of head coverings.

Kephale – Head could mean:

- Authority, leader
- Top – mountain top, top of a wave, top of a tree, top of a body
- Source – Fountain head, head of a river.

We believe **source** is the closest meaning.

When Paul was speaking of an authority, leader, hierarchy, he typically used other Greek words like *Exousia* and *Archon*. Not *Kephale*.

*Also, if Paul wanted to **argue** for **hierarchy**, would he not have **started** with God then Jesus, then man, then woman in verse 3. Instead he referred to them chronologically.*

G. Bilezikian - *At creation, Christ was the giver of life to men as the source of life of Adam. In turn, man gave life to the woman as she was taken from him. Then, God gave life to the Son as he come into the world for the incarnation.*

Paul supports his argument in 11:10-12

10 - “a woman ought to have authority **over her own head**....because of the angels” (not a sign of authority over her head. Paul never uses the word sign or symbol).

Women had God-given....

- Authority to choose to obey concerning her hair and a head covering.
- Authority to pray and prophesy.

*4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. 5 But every **woman** who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head.*

Jewish women were never permitted to pray or prophesy out loud. Here we see that they were given that new freedom in Christ. This would have been revolutionary. Prophecy is a part of the leadership gifts in Eph 4:11-12.

10...because of the angels? - Men and women alike will one day rule over the angels for eternity. We now have authority over fallen angels.

Another key point in 11:11-12

11 Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman **12 For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.**

This truth has been seen from the very beginning.

Adam and Eve were both created in God’s image. They were created to co-reign together over the earth and animals. But when they sinned, and experienced many consequences of their fallenness, including.

Cursed ground, Labor pains, Death and Gender wars.

Gen 3 - *And your will desire to control your husband, and he will rule over you.*

But Jesus came to restore that which was lost.

Gal 3:28 – In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female.

Acts 2:17 – You son and daughters will prophesy.

Key Principles from 1 Cor 11:2-16

- Christians are not to **mispresent** themselves by the way they dress or groom.
- However, in Christ, there are no **gender distinctions** when it comes to ministry function. Women can pray and prophesy (pastor, teach, lead).
- There is a God-given **interdependency** within the body of Christ. Men and women need each other.