

Series: 1 Corinthians

“Some Biblical Counsel Regarding Sexual Distinctions”

(Sunday Morning June 28th, 2026)

Passage: 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

O.S. I Want to Begin This Sermon by Reminding You That This Epistle is Divided Into Two Sections

- > **In Chapters 1-6, the Apostle Paul Addressed Some Serious Problems That Were Present in This Church Like Division and the Need to Address Sexual Sin**
- > **In Chapters 7-15, Paul is Answering Some Questions That the Corinthians Had Asked Him**
- > **We do Not Have a List of Those Questions, But We Can Discern What Those Questions Were by the Answers That Paul Gave to Them**

Ex = We Know, for Example, That They Had Some Questions About Celibacy, and Marriage and Remarriage, Because Paul Addressed Those Issues in *Chapter 7*

Ex = We Also Know That They Had Some Questions About Christian Liberty, Because He Addressed Those Issues in *Chapters 8, 9 and 10*

- > **Based on the Answer That Paul Gives Us in This Chapter, We Can Discern That They Had Some Questions About How Christian Women and Men Should Dress in Public as Well as When They Come Together for Corporate Worship**
 - > **And Listen, I Think This is Very Relevant for Us Today, Because the Common Consensus Today Seems to be That Christians Can Dress However They Please**
 - > **We Have Freedom in Christ; and So, a Christian Man Might Say *“If I Want to Walk Around Wearing a Kilt, This is My Business and No One Elses”***
 - > **And a Christian Woman Might Say *“If I Want to Wear an Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini, This is My Business and No One Elses”***
 - > **Well, I’ve Used Those Extreme Examples, Because I am Hoping That Some Will Realize That It is Important for Us Have Some Kind of Limitations in This**
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Q.n = Is It Biblical for Us to Set Some Limitations Regarding How We Clothe Ourselves in Public and in Our Corporate Worship Services?

Ans = I Believe This is Certainly Biblical, Especially, When It Comes to Maintaining Sexual Distinctions

-> **For You See, Anyone Who Has Read Their Bible Thoroughly Should Know That Our Lord Does Have Some Standards Regarding How We Clothe Ourselves**

-> **In 1 Tim 2:9, for Example, the Apostle Paul Said This; He Said, “Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments”**

-> **He is Referring There to Corporate Worship, and I Find It Interesting That He Mentioned Modesty on the One Hand and Wearing Elaborate Jewelry and Costly Garments on the Other Hand**

Q.n = Why Did He Tell Them to Avoid Both of Those Extremes?

Ans = Because Either Way These are Distractions

-> **Men, as Most of Us Should Know are Sight Oriented; and So, When a Woman Dresses Indiscretely, This Can Become a Major Distraction for Some**

-> **But Listen, When a Woman Goes Overboard to Make a Fashion Statement, This Can Also Become a Major Distraction**

-> **And if I Decided to Walk Up to This Pulpit and Preach This Entire Sermon With a Bonnet on My Head, That Would be a Distraction Too**

-> **And With This in Mind, I Can Say That Scriptures are Especially Clear When It Comes to Wearing Clothing That Disregard Sexual Distinctions**

-> **In Deut 22:5, the Bible Says “A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God.”**

Q.n = Is This a Problem in Our American Society Today?

Ans = You Tell Me = Does This Ever Happen to You?(...)

T.S. The Issue of Christian People Dressing Appropriately and Maintaining Sexual Distinctions is What I Believe This Passage of Scripture is All About

-> **And So, With This in Mind, I Have Divided This Sermon Into Two Parts**

I. Some Principles of Authority Have Been Revealed

1) We Have a Doctrinal Commendation

Verses 2 (Read)

- > Paul Commended Them for Two Reasons, and the First Was the Fact That They Had Remained, for the Most Part, Doctrinally Sound
- > That Word “*Traditions*” is Sometimes Translated as “*Teachings*”, and I Believe That is More Accurate
- > For You See, in *Acts 18*, We are Told About How This Church in Corinth Came Into Existence
- > Paul Had Gone First to the Jewish Synagogue to Try to Convince Them That Jesus Was and is Their Messiah, But They Rejected His Message
- > So, He Decided to go to the Gentiles, and He Wound Up in the House of a Man Named Crispus, Who Was a God-Fearing Man
- > Crispus Became a Christian, and He Opened Up His Home so That Paul Could Preach and Teach There
- > And in *Acts 18:11*, We Read, “*And he (Paul) settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.*”
- > So, Paul Spent Eighteen Months in Corinth, and We Can be Sure That One of the Things He Did During This Time Was That He Helped Them to Become Grounded Doctrinally
- > And Other Than Some Confusion About the Resurrection That He Addresses in *1 Corinthians 15*, They Did Not Have Any Other Serious Doctrinal Issues
- > The Second Part of This Commendation Simply Revolves Around the Fact That They Brought Their Questions and Concerns to Him
- > They Didn’t go to Some Greek Philosophers for Their Answers, They Brought Them to Paul, and This Proves That They Were Sincere in Their Desire to Live in a Way That is Pleasing to the True God of Heaven

T.S. 1) We Have a Doctrinal Commendation

2) We Have a Doctrinal Clarification

Verse 3 (Read)

-> **They Had Some Questions Regarding the Role of Christian Women in the Church and Society**

-> **And So, Paul Addresses This Issue, and He Does This in an Ingenius Way by Sandwiching, What Might Have Been Considered a Disputable Doctrinal Issue, Between Two Clearly Indisputable Doctrinal Truths**

Q.n = Can Any of Us Argue About the Fact That Jesus Christ is the Head of Every Man?

Ans = Not Possible

-> **For You See, Jesus Christ is the Head of Every Man Including Believers and Non-Believers**

-> **We are Told in *Phil 2:10-11* That, One of These Days, Every Man, Believers and Non-Believers Alike, Will Have to Bow Their Knee and Confess That Jesus Christ is the Lord**

Q.n = Likewise, Can Any of Us Argue About the Fact That God the Father is the Head of God the Son?

Ans = Not Possible

-> **Even Though They are Coequal and Coexistent and Coeternal, God the Son Chose to Subordinate Himself to God the Father**

-> **This is Also Found in *Philippians Chapter 2*; in *Philippians 2:6-7*, We are Told That “6...*although He existed in the form* (BTW = Morphe) *of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.*”**

-> **Sandwiched Between These Two Indisputable Doctrinal Truths Paul Places the Issue of the Man Being the Head of the Woman (BTW = It is Sandwiched In)**

-> **And He Doesn't Stop There, in *Verse 8* He Clarified That Her Submission to the Man is Based on the Order of Creation – *Verse 8 (Read)***

-> **The Point Paul is Making is That God Did Not Create the Man and the Woman at the Same Time, and He Created the Woman FROM the Man and FOR the Man**

St = Now, I'm Not Going to Shy Away From This Issue; I'm Going to Face It Head On

-> **And I Want to Begin by Saying That I am More Interested in Being Biblically Accurate Than I am With Being Politically Correct**

Q.n = And So, Listen to Me, are You Listening?

- > **There is Enough in This Passage Alone to Explain Why We Should Not Have Women Serving as Pastors or Elders or Deacons in Our Churches**
- > **And if This is Not Enough, We Can Seal the Deal by Going to *1 Timothy 2* Where Paul Uses *Genesis 2 and 3* to Explain His Position (Scriptures of First Reference)**
- > **And in *1 Timothy 2:12*, Paul Said, “*But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, ...*” (Lit...) and He Was Referring to the Public Assembly**
- > **BTW, in the First Portion of *1 Tim 2:1-8*, Paul Moves From Using the Gender Neutral Word “*Anthropos*” to Using the Word “*Andres = Men*” With the Article**

**Q.n = Why Did Paul Specifically Say “*The Men*”? Why Did He Get That Specific?
Ans = I Believe He Did It to Emphasize What He Was About to Say**

- > **People Either Have to Call the Apostle Paul a Male Chauvinist (Which Many Do) or They Have to do a Lot of Hermeneutical Gymnastics to Get Around This**
- > **And I Want You to Notice That This Has Nothing to do With Equality, But It Has Everything to do With Roles**

**Q.n = Is Jesus, Who is God the Son, Equal to God the Father?
Ans = Absolutely**

- > **I Just Finished Saying That They are Coequal, Coexistent and Coeternal**
- > **Jesus, Who is God the Son is Equal to God the Father; But Nevertheless, He Chose of His Own Volition to Submit to the Will of God the Father**
- > **In the Same Way Wives are to Choose to be Submissive to Their Husbands, and Women are to Choose to be Submissive to Male Leadership in the Church**
- > **And It is Important That We Understand What Paul is Saying Here in *Verse 2-3*, Because This is Foundational to Our Understanding of the Rest of This Passage**

T.S. I. Some Principles of Authority Have Been Revealed

II. Some Practical Applications Have Been Recommended

1) We Have Examples in the Past

Verse 4-6 (Read)

- > **To Understand All of This Correctly, We Need to Understand Some Things About the Culture in That Day and Time**
- > **In That Day and Time, Women Wore Dresses Along With Head Coverings and Veils That Stretched Down Past Their Knees**
- > **Married Women Were Encouraged to Wear These Veils, Because They Were a Sign of Submission to Their Husbands (Repeat)**
- > **The Idea Was That They Were Withholding Their Physical Beauty From Others, Because Their Physical Beauty Was Reserved for Their Husbands**
- > **In Addition to This, There Was a Women's Liberation Movement in Those Days, and Some Women Cut Their Hair Short in Order to Protest Male Authority**
- > **And There Were Temple Prostitutes Who Did Not Wear Veils, for Obvious Reasons, and They Would Shave Their Heads**
- > **So, This is Why Paul Encouraged These Women to Wear Their Veils and to Avoid Getting Their Hair Cut**
- > **And Paul Was Being Sarcastic, Which is Somewhat Common With Paul, by Saying, in Essence, "If You're Going to Cut Your Hair Short, You Might as Well Just go All the Way and Shave All of Your Hair Off"**

Q.n = Would This Have Been Dishonoring to Her or Her Husband or Both?

Ans = Both

- > **This is Akin to *Proverbs 17:25* Which Says "A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him."**

Q.n = What About This Praying or Prophesying in Verse 5?

- > **Well, There is Nothing Wrong With a Woman Praying, or Prophesying (Lit. Speaking Forth the Word), Because This Isn't Referring to the Public Assembly**
 - > **But Even So, She is Encouraged to Dress in a God-Honoring Way While Doing So**
- St = Paul Also Mentions the Men Not Growing Their Hair Long and Not Wearing a Veil or a Head Covering, Because This Would Send the Wrong Message**

Verse 7-9 (Read)

- > **This is Interesting in Light of the Fact That Jewish Men Wear a Little Hat That is Called a "Kippah" to Show Their Devotion to Jehovah**

Q.n = Where Did That Come From?

Ans = It is a Misinterpretation of *Exod 33*

- > In *Exodus 33*, We are Told About an Occasion When Moses Was Allowed to See the Glory of the Lord Up on Mount Horeb
- > And After He Came Down, He Put a Veil Over His Face to Hide the Bright Light of the Glory of God
- > The “*Kippah*” Implies That the Glory of God Was Being Veiled Because It Was Too Spectacular for the People to Look Upon It
- > But in *2 Corinthians 3:12-13*, We are Told That the Real Reason He Put on a Veil Was for the Opposite Reason; It Says

“12 Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, 13 and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away.”

- > So, It Could be That Paul Was Addressing This Very Issue With the Jews Who Were Living in and Around Corinth
- > And He Was Pointing Out That the Head Covering They Were Wearing Did Not Represent What They Thought It Represented
- > On the Contrary, It Represents the Fact That Moses Was Somewhat Embarrassed, Because the Glory of God Was Departing From Him
- > The Primary Issue in Both Cases, However, Was This; Paul Wanted the Women to Dress Like Women and the Men to Dress Like Men

T.S. 1) We Have Examples in the Past

2) We Have Examples in the Present

- > Now, We Obviously do Not Need to Expect Women to Wear Veils in Our Culture, Because This is Not a Cultural Norm That Expresses Submission in Our Day
- > But It is Important for a Woman to Dress in a Way That Reveals That She is Being Submissive to Her Husband and to Those Who Have Authority Over Her
- > And of Course, All of This Ties in With the Issue of Christian Liberty, Because It is Really Should Not be My Job to Have to Determine This for You

- > **It Could Become My Job if You Choose to Dress so Indiscreetly That It Becomes a Distraction to Others in Our Fellowship**
- > **But Ideally, a Christian Woman Should Determine This for Herself, and She Might Even Want to Enlist the Help of Her Husband**
- > **There is Nothing Wrong and Everything Right, for Example, With a Wife Asking Her Husband if Her Clothing is Acceptable to Him**
- > **If a Woman is Wearing a Mini Skirt and Showing a Lot of Cleavage, I Can't Speak for You, But I Can Speak for Myself and Say That It Would Appear to Me That She is Advertising Herself**
- > **Prostitutes Wear Mini Skirts and Show a Lot of Cleavage for Some Obvious Reasons; They do It to Advertise Themselves Sexually – Am I Right? (Nod)**
- > **And Listen, God Speaks Negatively About Women Who Dress in an Indiscreet Way**
- > **In *Prov 11:22*, Solomon Said, “As a ring of gold in a swine's snout so is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion”**
- > **That is God's Way of Saying That a Woman Who Likes to Show It All is Ugly to Him**
- > **A Christian Man Also Needs to Consider This Issue, Because He Should Never Want to be Perceived of as Being Feminine**

Q.n = Can a Man Have Long Hair Without Being Perceived as Being Feminine?
 (I Think This is Possible – Just Grow a Beard) **Can a Man Have a Man Bun?**
 (Tape It On) **What About Wearing an Earing or Earrings?** (The Bond Servant)
What About Wearing High Heels? (I Think Not) **What About Painting His Fingernails?** (I Think Not) (Joke =Would One of You Please Kiss the Bride?)

Q.n = What Should We Say About This Reference to the Angels in *Verse 10 (Read)?*

- > **To Begin With, We Know That We Have Angels in Our Midst, and We Know That Angels are Watching Us**
- > **In *Luke 15:10*, Jesus Said “...there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”**
- > **And Listen, the Angels Understand Submission, Because There are Different Ranks of Angels**
- > **There are Archangels, and Guardian Angels, and the Seraphim and the Cherubim**

-> **And the Angels are Quite Familiar With What Can Happen When a Freewill Creature Decides to Usurp the Authority of One Who is Over Them (Lucifer...)**

Q.n = Why Did Paul Remind Us of the Interdependence of Men and Women in vs 11?

Ans = To Show Us That There is No Place for Male Chauvism (Comment = Helpful)

Q.n = What Should We Say About This Reference to Nature in Verse 14 (Read)?

-> **If We Look at Lions, We Have to Conclude That It is the Male That Has the Long Hair and the Female That Has the Short Hair; So, This is Somewhat Confusing**

-> **I Think, and You Can Take This for What It is Worth, I Think That This is Just Referring to the Fact That Males and Females are Different in Their Appearance**

-> **The Male Lion and the Female Lion, for Example, are Clearly Different in Their Appearance, and the Male is the More Masculine of the Two**

-> **The Male Cardinal is Bright Red While the Female Has More of a Brown Color**

-> **When We Were on Vacation, I Had to Learn How Distinguish Between Male Crabs and Female Crabs, Because You Can't Keep the Female Ones**

Q.n = Why Does Paul Mention Some Who are Inclined to be Contentious in Vs 16?

Ans = Because He Had Reached the End of His Apostolic Instructions

-> **Paul Was Saying, in Other Words, That if All I Have Said Has Not Convinced You, There is Nothing More That I Can Say to Convince You**

-> **And We Should Know All Too Well That There are Some Who are Going to Reject This Teaching and Continue to Follow Their Own Unscriptural Path Invitation**

-> **I Want to Close This Sermon This Morning by Reminding All of Us of the Fact That There Were Some Men in the Bible That Were Told Not to Cut Their Hair**

-> **Samson, for Example, Was a Nazirite From Birth; and for This Reason, Samson Was Never Allowed to Cut His Hair**

Q.n = Why Did Samson Have This Restriction?

Ans = Because He Was Supposed to be a Walking Sermon

-> **The Purpose Was so That He Would Live a Holy or Separated Life, and He Would be Noticably Distinct and Different From Everyone Else Around Him**

Q.n = And Listen, God Has the Same Purpose for All of Us Who are Christians?

- > **In 2 Corinthians 6:17, Paul Was Quoting From Isaiah 52:11 When He Said, “Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,” says the Lord. ‘AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you.’**
- > **For Us (Men), This Doesn’t Mean Growing Our Hair Long, Because, Let’s Face It, This is Quite Common in Our Day**
- > **If We Grow Our Hair Long This Isn’t Going to Make Us Distinct; and if We Keep Our Hair Short, This Isn’t Going to Make Us Distinct Either (Long & Short of It)**
- > **For Us, This Means Dressing and Behaving in Such a Way That We “...adorn the doctrine of God”; That’s How Paul Said It in Titus 2:10**
- > **And the Goal is to Have a Good Testimony so That People Will be Attracted to Our Message**

Q.n = And What is Our Message?

Ans = It is the Gospel

- > **It is the Good News That Any Person Can be Forgiven of Theirs Sins, and Any Person Can be Saved and Inherit Eternal Life by Simply Placing Their Faith and Trust in Jesus Christ**
- > **And the Bible Says That This is All That You Have to do to Become a Receptient of What God Has Promised (ABC’s)**