

1 Corinthians 11 New American Standard Bible

Christian Order

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

² Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I handed them down to you.

³ But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. ⁴ Every man who has *something* on his head while praying or prophesying disgraces his head.

⁵ But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying disgraces her head, for it is one and the same as the woman whose head is shaved. ⁶ For if a woman does not cover her head, have her also cut her hair off; however, if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, have her cover her head. ⁷ For a man should not have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.

⁸ For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; ⁹ for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake. ¹⁰ Therefore the woman should have *a symbol of* authority on her head, because of the angels. ¹¹ However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.

¹² For as the woman *originated* from the man, so also the man *has his birth* through the woman; and all things *originate* from God. ¹³ Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a woman to pray to God *with her head* uncovered? ¹⁴ Does even nature itself not teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, ¹⁵ but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her? For her hair is given to her as a covering.

¹⁶ But if anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor have the churches of God.

¹⁷ Now in giving this *next* instruction I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better, but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it.

¹⁹ For there also have to be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you. ²⁰ Therefore when you come together it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, ²¹ for when you eat, each one takes his own supper first; and one goes hungry while another gets drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What am I to say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I do not praise you.

The Lord's Supper

²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way *He* also *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." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy way, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But a person must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

²⁹ For the one who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not *properly* recognize the body. ³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number are asleep. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers *and sisters*, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, have him eat at home, so that you do not come together for judgment. As to the remaining matters, I will give instructions when I come.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

1. To have the confidence to invite people to follow your example is a brave statement to make. Is it something you could do?
2. Paul is so confident of having taught them the right truths from God, he could make such a bold statement. This is not true for many leaders.
3. Why is identity in gender important to Paul? Confusion is the dark art of evil. Our bodily bits and pieces make it all so clear.
4. The social identity of that time period expected certain things and to not do so was to offend. Whether that still applies today is up for debate.
5. For a woman to have her head shaved was to identify herself as a woman of the night. Again, whether this still applies today is up for debate.
6. Paul presents the idea that man is the glory of God and woman is the glory of man. What do you think?
7. Paul's authority to teach this idea comes from why man was made and why woman was made.
8. Being under authority goes against today's social identity regardless of whether you are a man or a woman.
9. Paul acknowledges the unique value of a man and the unique value of a woman.
10. Paul invites this gathering of Christians to judge for themselves, as to what is right in society at that time, regarding the covering of one's head in prayer.
11. For a man to wear a head covering in prayer was an insult to God, for a woman to not wear a head covering in prayer was an insult to her.
12. This problem does not exist in today's society.
13. Paul asks the question does nature teach us long hair on a man is inappropriate? It may have been then but it does not apply today.
14. Would you agree that a woman's hair is her glory and crown?
15. Paul uses the hair issue to open up a can of worms within this gathered community of Christians. It was the thin end of the wedge regarding their broken relationships.
16. Division is of the devil, denominationalism is of the devil, it was not God's plan for us to be divided.

17. Unity is the way of God and everything that attacks the idea of unity is evil.
18. Division was expressing itself at the Lords supper, they were sharing the meal together and many of them were scoffing the food and were distracted from the true focus of remembering what Jesus did for us on the cross.
19. Make the distinction, Paul says, eat food at your own table and share in the Lords supper when you gather.
20. The Lords supper is spiritual food, what you eat at home is of physical benefit.
21. As in most things this kind of behaviour was causing the poor in the church to suffer the most.
22. Paul sets out how to get the best out of the Lords supper by framing a service of remembrance,
23. to bring about the benefit and blessing of all, both in the use of the bread and the wine.
24. The Lords supper is a testimony of the promises of God, both as to what He has done and what He is going to do.
25. What is an unworthy manner? It is an attitude of inappropriate behaviour.
26. In the part of the service for self-examination, we are giving the Holy Spirit the opportunity to reveal to us any inappropriate attitudes or behaviours that we might have and the time to put things right.
27. To not bring a resolve, if you receive a conviction from the Holy Spirit, will bring offense to God and the revelation He has given.
28. Some had hardened their hearts and become unwell and some had even fallen asleep, both spiritually and physically.
29. To fall asleep is to die, even as Adam died in the rebellion in the garden at the fall of man.
30. Discipline from the Lord is a good thing, but a judgement from the Lord is a bad place to be.
31. Courtesy and selflessness is the right posture to have at the gathering of the Lords supper.
32. These issues were but a few that Paul was bringing to a resolve, there were many more to come.