

**“UNITED IN WORSHIP”**  
**(1Corinthians 11:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33)**  
*January 22, 2017*

Like any pastor, Paul was concerned that the worship services in his churches were honoring to GOD above all else.

**I. A CHALLENGE**

Paul was brave enough to ask people to act as he did, but **ONLY** in the way that he followed the example of Christ.

Paul is establishing an order with Christ as our supreme example, which his apostle will follow and we follow the apostle.

**II. ROLES and RELATIONSHIPS**

The word “head” here means **AUTHORITY**. The additional meaning of “head” here is “**HONOR**.” The man ought to be **WORTHY** of the honor – an **EXAMPLE** to his wife and others, as Paul challenged us to be.

**III. RULES about head coverings**

Men normally wore head coverings outdoors. But, when they came in to worship they were to remove them.

Covering their heads was putting a **BARRIER** between themselves and God. The man was to remove his hat when he entered the place of worship as a sign of **SUBMISSION** to God.

Paul's instruction to women is exactly the **OPPOSITE**.

In the Corinthian church, a woman without a head covering was seen as a problem, and as being **DISRESPECTFUL** to her husband.

Paul taught that angels are present when God's people gather to worship God. They are aware of the conduct of Christians in worship and **OFFENDED** when anyone does not take it seriously and act respectfully.

**The church has taken this passage by Paul several ways:**

- 1) A command for ALL time: men are to be bare headed in worship and women are to keep their heads covered in worship.**
- 2) A TEMPORARY, cultural instruction to the church at Corinth alone, to help resolve tensions in their worship services and affirm that wives must be in submission to their husbands.**
- 3) A LASTING principle requiring wives, in all ways, to show respect to their husbands by submitting to their authority – not just by wearing appropriate attire, but by living godly lives.**

**Paul helps us out by providing:**

#### **IV. The ANSWER**

**Men and women are equal in the Lord and MUTUALLY dependent.**

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

*Galatians 3:28*

**All persons are of EQUAL value in God's eyes, if in Christ.**

**Christ turned cultural norms upside down as he treated women not merely as females who were somehow inferior to men, but as PERSONS who were different in their makeup, their demeanor, their skills, their strengths and their way of relating.**

**Different, yes – inferior, NO!**

**The ideal in marriage is therefore mutual submission, granting one another GRACE as Christ granted it to us. A man who is not trying to follow Christ and submitting to him has ABDICATED his right of leadership in the marriage.**

**The key to successful marriage is found in Ephesians 5:33 –  
Wives must KNOW that their husband loves them. Men must KNOW that their wife respects them. Its in our DNA!**

**Mutual submission requires LOVE. God is love. Paul declares that we have no OTHER practice.**