

The background is a rich, warm orange-red color. It features several glowing, wavy lines that resemble light trails or energy flows, moving across the frame. There are also some faint, darker lines and shapes that suggest a complex, abstract structure. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and spiritual light.

Sharing His Divine Nature

A Series on Holiness

Aspects of Holiness

- **Positive Aspect**

- Our pursuit of holiness leads us to becoming like God and taking on characteristics of his divine nature
- The positive aspect of holiness is what we do
- Imitation

- **Negative Aspect**

- Our pursuit of holiness leads us to withdraw and separate from all things contrary to God's divine nature
- The negative aspect of holiness is what we don't do
- Separation

Sharing His Divine Nature

- The pursuit of holiness requires change according to the instruction and discipline of God through his Word
- The positive and negative aspects of holiness work together to achieve our required change
 - We change by beginning to do things that make us like God and at the same time separate us from the world around us
 - We change by ceasing to do things that separate us from God and at the same time, by ceasing, we become more like God

Instruction and Prohibition

- The instructions of what to do and the prohibitions of what to stop doing rarely make perfect sense to us
 - “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

The Holy Spirit

- This is why holiness must be a pursuit that is based in relationship with the Holy Spirit of God
 - “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth....But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative -- that is, the Holy Spirit -- he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.”

The Process

- I am obligated by my calling in God to teach you both the principles and applications of holiness found within the Word of God
- I pray that you will be like the believers of Berea who were receptive to Paul's message and "searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth."

Finally...

- You are obligated by the Word of God to obey Paul's instruction to the Philippians:
 - “Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

I Corinthians 11:1-2

And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ. I am so glad that you always keep me in your thoughts, and that you are following the teachings I passed on to you.

I Corinthians 11:3

But there is one thing I want you to know:
The **head** of every man is Christ, the **head**
of woman is man, and the **head** of Christ
is God.

I Corinthians 11:3

But there is one thing I want you to know:
The **source** of every man is Christ, the
source of woman is man, and the **source**
of Christ is God.

I Corinthians 11:3

But there is one thing I want you to know:
Every man is **responsible to** Christ, a
woman is **responsible to** her husband,
and Christ is **responsible to** God.

kefalh.

- the part of the body that contains the brain, *head*
 - anatomy
- **source**
 - genesis or origin
- a being of high status, *head*
 - relational

I Corinthians 11:4

A man dishonors his head if **he covers his head** while praying or prophesying.

kata. kefalh/j e;cwn

- have something on the head
 - (literally: hanging down from the head as a veil)

I Corinthians 11:5-6

But a woman dishonors her head if she prays or prophesies **without a covering on her head**, for this is the same as shaving her head. Yes, if **she refuses to wear a head covering**, she should cut off all her hair! But since it is shameful for a woman to have her hair cut or her head shaved, **she should wear a covering**.

(av)katakalu,ptw| th/ kefalh/|

- with uncovered head
 - (literally: a head without a covering)
- with covered head
 - (literally: a head with a covering)

I Corinthians 11:7-9

A man should not wear anything on his head when worshiping, for man is made in God's image and reflects God's glory. And woman reflects man's glory. For the first man didn't come from woman, but the first woman came from man. And man was not made for woman, but woman was made for man.

I Corinthians 11:10-12

For this reason, and because the angels are watching, a woman should wear a covering on her head to show she is under authority. But among the Lord's people, women are not independent of men, and men are not independent of women. For although the first woman came from man, every other man was born from a woman, and everything comes from God.

The Foundation of Paul's Teaching

- Paul is clearly basing his teaching on the creation story of Genesis 1 & 2
- The physical source of the man is God taking of the dust of the earth, the physical source of woman (also man's wife) is God taking the rib from Adam, and the physical source of Christ is God overshadowing the virgin Mary
 - (I Corinthians 11:3)

The Foundation, cont.

- Man is not to pray with his head covered because of the image of God—holiness
- Woman is not to pray with her head uncovered because of her relationship with her husband
- NOTE: while the woman (wife) is described as reflecting man's (husband's) glory, she is not described as being made in his image—she is made in the image of God just like the man

The Foundation, cont.

- This description is not just about physical source but also about responsibility and authority
- Paul makes a mysterious reference to the angels watching but the driving force of the reference is authority—it is all about the husband-wife relationship and the appropriate responsibility and authority

The Foundation, cont.

- But lest he overstate his point, Paul then points out that after the creation of the first man (husband) and woman (wife), men and women are interdependent with all men coming from women and everything coming from God
- **BOTTOM LINE:** Paul's instruction is firmly based in the creation of man and woman in the image of God and hence has everything to do with God's holiness

I Corinthians 11:13-15

Judge for yourselves. Is it right for a woman to pray to God in public **without covering her head**? Isn't it obvious that it's disgraceful for a man to have **long hair**? And isn't **long hair** a woman's pride and joy? For it has been given to her as a **covering**.

What is the Covering?

- Paul returns to his initial teaching concerning covering with a question: “Is it right for a woman [wife] to pray to God in public without covering her head?”
- When he turns to the counterpoint question, however, he asks: “Isn’t it obvious that it’s disgraceful for man to have long hair?”

The Covering is the Hair

- In verses 4-7, Paul says the man is to be uncovered and the woman covered
- Now Paul is asking about a man having long hair
- He makes the transition complete by the third question: “And isn’t long hair a woman’s pride and joy?”
- And if we missed the point, he states, “For it has been given to her as a covering.”

What is Long Hair?

- Paul has given us the answer in verses 5-6: the opposite of a covered head is a head that is shaved or whose hair is cut
- Further, long defined by length is arbitrary —hair growth is not the same among humans
- Long defined as uncut (or in the case of man, cut) is absolute

I Corinthians 11:16

But if anyone wants to argue about this, I simply say that we have no other custom than this, and neither do God's other churches.

Final Comments

- Men are to cut their hair and women are not to cut their hair
- This instruction is part of God's definition of maleness and femaleness and our hair is part of this gender distinction and identification—it is part our sharing his divine nature, holiness
- Further this instruction has to do with our relationship with our mate
- By obeying this instruction we release an element of holiness in both our individual