

Sunday, July 23, 2017—I Corinthians 11:7-12 Because of the Angels: Head Coverings and the Created Order

Introduction

- Last Sunday, I took time to address some questions I had received about the topic of head coverings from a previous message. This morning, having answered those questions to the best of my ability, I would like to move on through the passage.
- What we will see this morning in Paul’s rational/explanation for why this system of headship/coverings is reasonable and appropriate.

I Corinthians 11:7

- **For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.**
- *Indeed*—the English word “indeed” means “In reality; in truth; in fact,” according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*. As an expression, it serves various purposes:
 - Indeed is usually emphatical, but in some cases more so than in others; as, this is true; it is *indeed*.
 - It is used to note concession or admission; as, ships not so large *indeed* but better manned.
 - Indeed is used as an expression of surprise, or for the purpose of obtaining confirmation of a fact stated. Indeed! is it possible? is it so in fact?
- I believe that the usage here in verse 11 is for the purpose of “obtaining confirmation of a fact stated.” Previously, in verse 4 Paul stated that men should not pray or prophesy having their heads covered. The purpose of verse 7 is to provide further explanation and elaboration for why verse 4 is true.
- The reason a man “ought not to cover his head” is because he is the image and glory of God.
 - Genesis 1:26-29
 - Genesis 2:7—God almighty created man first and did so in a very direct manner. God breathed his life into Adam. You could say that God inspired the first man just like he did his written word.

- I Corinthians 11:7—Paul’s statement that “the woman is the glory of the man” is not saying that men are inherently better than women. Rather he is acknowledging the created order established in Genesis.
 - Genesis 2:21-25—“she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man.”

I Corinthians 11:8-9

- **For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. 9) Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.**
- These verses factually and logically follow from what we have seen so far.
 - Verse 8—the woman is of the man, according to Genesis 2:23.
 - Verse 9—the woman was created for the man, according to Genesis 2:18. God created Eve to be Adam’s helpmeet.
- So in seeking to provide confirmation/explanation of the truth (“indeed”) of verses 4 through 6 Paul is appealing to the created order in verses 7 through 12.

I Corinthians 11:10

- **For this cause ought the woman to have power on *her* head because of the angels.**
- For this cause or for this reason i.e., because of the created order a woman “ought” to have power on her head. The English word “ought” implies that this is a direct instruction to women. According to Webster’s 1828 Dictionary the word “ought” carries the following meanings.
 - To be held or bound in duty or moral obligation.
 - To be necessary; to behoove.
 - To be fit or expedient in a moral view.
- Having power on her head in this context is referring to headship and head coverings from verses 3 through 6.
- *Because of the angles*—the reason Paul gives for why a woman ought “to have power on her head” is “because of the angles.” What is Paul getting at by this statement.
- Psalm 8:4-5—keeping with the context there is a created order issue with respect to the angles. Man is lower than the angels, according to the Psalmist.

- Job 38:4-7—the angles were present at the creation of the earth which means their creation predates the earth as well as man.
- Hebrews 2:5-9—the angels watched as God created man and put all things under him.
- Consider what we have already learned about angles in the book of I Corinthians.
 - I Corinthians 4:9—we are made a spectacle unto the angels. The angles are watching members of the body of Christ.
 - I Corinthians 6:1-3—in the ages to come believers will be involved with judging the angles.
- Daniel 4:17
- I Peter 1:10-12—God made known the events but kept a secret about their timing (Isaiah 53). It was this timing the prophets wanted to know about. Angel's wanted to know the same thing.
 - Remember that one of characteristics of angels is that they are not all knowing.
- Ephesians 3:9-10—Paul wants all men to see the fellowship of the mystery in verse 9 so that in verse 10 the angelic creation might understand the manifold wisdom of God.
 - The very thing the angels desired to look into in I Peter 1:12 i.e., the timing of how the suffering and glory fit together has been made know through the revelation of the mystery.
- Who teaches the angelic world about the manifold wisdom of God? You and I do, i.e, the church the body of Christ and its members.
- I Corinthians 11:10—angels are watching to see the impact of God's word on your life. Men and women what are the angles learning by watching the way we function as members of the body of Christ. Are they watching a disorderly mess or mature saints seeking to function by faith in God's written word?
- The orderly functioning of the local church is patterned after the orderly creation that God established. The angles know all about it because they were present when God ordained it.

I Corinthians 11:11

- **Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.**

- *Nevertheless*—not withstanding all this created order stuff in verses 7-10, there is one hundred percent equality in the between men and woman in the body Christ.
 - Galatians 3:28
- For the body of Christ to function properly both men and woman have vitally important role to play.

I Corinthians 11:12

- **For as the woman *is* of the man, even so *is* the man also by the woman; but all things of God.**
- Lest the men get a big head Paul reminds them that they are “by the woman.” Every man who serves in the local church owes his existence to a woman that bore him.
- God established and set things up to function in this manner. We need to trust that God knew what he was doing.