

Believing Women's Devotional Head Covering

In the first epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian Church (“With all that In every place call upon the name of Yahshua Messiah our Saviour. . .“ I Cor. 1:2.) are divine ordinances, given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to be practiced by the believers. In chapter eleven, verse two, he commends them for having kept those ordinances which he had given them at some earlier time. It appears that the assembly had drifted into worldliness and carnality in some respects, and therefore, it became necessary for Paul to reprove them, and to re-instruct them on several points; Inasmuch as the obedience of some and the disobedience of others had resulted in divisions. That the teaching and wearing of the Believing woman's devotional head covering during prayer and worship was being neglected (or rejected), or was perhaps not emphasized enough due to a lack of understanding, is clearly seen In verses three through sixteen.

It is clearly evident from verse sixteen that there were those among the Corinthians who resisted this teaching as unnecessary. We also have with us In our day many who likewise err. At this time let us turn to Ch. 14:37, “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Yahweh.” Further, for the sake of those who insist that it is “tradition,” we are in agreement: Let us read II Thess. 2:15, “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”.. If any man seem to be contentious...,” he may contend with these Scriptures.

In these first sixteen verses of I Corinthians, chapter eleven, Paul teaches the divine relationship of woman to man, man to Messiah, and Messiah to Yahweh. He states, “But I would have you know, that the head of every man Is Messiah; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Messiah is Yahweh.” In this passage lies a deep mystery.

This headship is a principle that is the basis of cooperative work and all relationship between the parties. The headship, or the principle of the headship of man over woman issues from the relationship that exists between Yahweh and Messiah. The principle is in force in heaven eternally, and on earth since the creation of man and woman. The violation of this principle between Yahweh and Messiah would bring confusion In heaven, and its violation in Christian society on earth brings nothing less. Yahshua said, “I and my Father are one” but He also said. “My Father is greater than I.” The Believing woman finds in Messiah her equality

with man, yet she finds a position of subordination in matters of authority. As Messiah is not dishonored by being subject to Yahweh, so woman is not dishonored by being subject to man.

This principle is stated in verses 4-7, where Paul says that man ought not to wear a veil while praying or prophesying, for that would dishonor Messiah, his invisible head, because he is the image and glory of Yahweh. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head unveiled dishonoreth her head, (or man) who is visible and bodily present; hence the visible sign or veiling on her head. (Nearly all modern translations including the revised version. use the term veil In place of covering.) In I Cor. 11:13 the position of woman in the Saviour is so plainly taught that most everyone can understand that a separate veiling is taught to denote the spiritual relationship to man in the Saviour. Then Paul uses the natural covering as a means of supporting his teaching of women wearing a veil, by stating, “Does not nature itself teach you?” It teaches the veiling by women having received by nature the principle of long hair, and man to have his hair cut short. Thus nature teaches the covering. In place of destroying the first thirteen verses of I Cor. 11, it establishes both the natural and the spiritual relation between man and woman in the Saviour.

Sometimes we are told that verse 16 says, “We have no such custom” but may we note Paul refers to the “custom” of women praying or prophesying without their heads veiled, this was different than the other assemblies of Yahweh. It would seem the height of absurdity that Paul, the wise masterbuilder (Ch. 3:10), should expend the space of thirteen verses to establish a point and then say, in effect, “Every man as he pleases.”

We might ask, is not this for married women only? Not unless only married women are in the Saviour, or only married women are to pray or prophesy. We might ask, who should wear a veiling? The answer is, since all women, married or single, wear by nature the natural covering, so all Believing women, married or single, should wear the covering or veiling as taught in the Bible. When should this veiling be worn? The answer is whenever you pray or prophesy, at home in your devotions, or since you are in the Saviour, and are to show your relationship to man, and Messiah, there is hardly a time when this in some way or other may not be shown. “For in him we live and move and have our being” Acts 17:28.

Since all of life and all things become a sacred stewardship, and a continual living sacrifice, “which is our reasonable service” Rom. 12:1-2, what type of veiling should this be? From the catacombs, and eastern churches, we learn that the

Believing women wore a veiling that covered the head and fell over the shoulders. It should cover the head much as the natural covering does, which is the hair. And should not the hair dress be consistent with Believers simplicity? The close parallel in the teaching indicates that the natural covering and the spiritual covering should cover the same thing, the head.

Yahweh forbids the wearing of a Believing woman's veil, with shorn hair, because the shorn hair already shows that she is out of place in Yahweh's natural order, since she is not in submission to man as such. How can she be in her place in Yahweh's spiritual order! Small coverings that do not cover properly, are not in keeping with Yahweh's divine order and ordinance. All Believing women should endeavor to submit themselves into the natural order, and thus submit to Yahweh's divine order.

Many Christian groups formerly practiced the ordinance of the woman's veiling. In fact It was practiced for 1900 years by the New Testament assembly. It is only during recent years that women began to worship with the head uncovered.

The devotional covering should be worn out of conviction and faith in Yahweh's Word and not merely because it is a assembly ordinance, else it will lose its spiritual power and significance. The Assembly is held responsible for the maintenance of this ordinance. Please read: Matt. 7:21 and John 14:21,22,23.

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