



Heads Up

By Johnny Caruso on April 13, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 11

In the world we live in this section scripture is hard to understand. So we hold it up against our culture and say, this is not right, or this is not relevant. Paul is setting up what he is going to teach in the rest of the book. So I am intentionally not going to discuss the head cover or length of hair issues. Paul makes it clear that God has established principles of order, authority and accountability.

In its full sense, *head* has the idea of "headship" and "authority." It means to have the appropriate responsibility to lead, and the matching accountability. It is right and appropriate to submit to someone who is our head. For example, Pastor Jeff is our Head or Lead Pastor, so when Pastor Jeff says we are going to do something, the staff as under-shepherds are to fall in line. This does not mean there may not be conversation about the situation, but at the end of the day we do what our *lead* or *head* asks us to do.

With that being said, Paul describes three "headship" relationships: Jesus is head of every man; a husband is the head of his wife, and God (the Father) is head of Christ. Because Paul connects the three relationships, the principles of headship are the same for each mentioned.

The head of every man is Christ, and he (man) is to imitate Christ. In the same way, the head of every wife is her husband, and she is to imitate him, which can be problematic when men are not in sync with Christ. Then Christ is to imitate God--Christ is God. If we are talking about single or widowed women, they have no man to imitate so their default is to imitate Christ.

The idea of headship and authority is important to God. In His great plan for the ages, one great thing God looks for from man is *voluntary submission*. This is what Jesus showed in His life over and over again and is exactly what God looks for from *both* men and women, though it will be expressed in different ways.

It is essential to understand that *being under authority does not equal inferiority*. Jesus was totally under the authority of God the Father (John 5:19 and 8:28), yet He is equally God (John 1:1, 8:58, and 10:30). When God calls women in the church to recognize the headship of men, it is not because women are unequal or inferior, but because there is a God-ordained order of authority to be respected.

PRAYER: Lord, may we, as Christ-followers, do what You have set before us--imitate the authorities You have placed before us.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Corinthians 12

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