

1 Corinthians 11—Under Authority Like Jesus

- Concept of Head in Scripture as Linked to Authority:
 - Mentioned 14 times in this chapter
 - Ephesians 4:15—grow up into him who is our head
 - Ephesians 1:22—God put all things under his feet...and give him as the head
 - Colossians 1:18—he is the head of the body, the church
- Main Idea:
 - Paul is arguing for a celebration of gender distinctive between male and female where we can celebrate the common value and worth of everyone while also embracing the design of God in male headship and female submission.
- **Intro:**
 - After giving his strong warning to these believers about danger of PAGAN worship, he moves to point out several issues within their own gatherings for worship.
 - So you don't defy God-ordained distinction or disregard God's good design, I'm here to help!
 - 3 Approaches to Gender Roles:
 - Feminism—men are what's wrong with the world and are dopes and women must take over.
 - Chauvinism—women are weak and inferior and should sit down, get behind and be quiet.
 - Complementarianism—men and women are equal in value but distinct in their function and are given to one another as complements in life, family and ministry as the men lead and the women help and support.
- **Complementarianism Begins with God (v.3)**
 - Understanding how men and women relate means understanding how Father, Son, Spirit relate.
 - Jesus would say he was SENT by the Father...came to do the WILL of the Father
 - the Father. Also said I and the Father are One.
 - Notice the order—God as the head of Christ comes after man is the head of woman.
 - Could read:Father is head of Christ...Christ is head of man...man is head of wife
 - Putting God head of Christ last destroys any ideas of superiority/inferiority!
 - Challenge:
 - MEN: The challenge of headship is that it is ordained by God in creation to image his headship and leadership and love of us.
 - This is hard because you want to say, Yes, I'm the boss!
 - This is tender. This is wise. This is compassionate. This is service. This is sacrificial. This is selfless. This issue of headship is the commendation of God to men to lead like Jesus!
 - You are UNDER authority. You are not king and boss but are the loving protector and provider and one responsible!
 - WOMEN: The challenge of submission is that it is ordained by God in creation to image the submission of Christ to the Father.
 - This is hard b/c you want to say—I'm fine..I don't need authority...JESUS DID!
 - This is freeing. This is joyful. This is safe. This is wise. This was not inferior or demeaning. This was empowering.

- **Complementarianism RESPECTS godly authority (v.4-6)**
 - Verses 4-6 are the overflow of the principle laid out in v.3—equality amidst distinction
 - Why men not cover their heads—because that is what women did.
 - This not only dishonored the design of God but also dishonored the leadership of Christ.
 - Why women not cut their hair short/uncover their heads—because that is what men did.
 - This not only dishonored the design of God but also dishonored the leadership of her husband.
 - The issue of the head covering is about the woman’s demeanor and attitude as related to men and their authority.
 - Wear hair long—only prostitutes would do this
 - Wear hair short—a sign of rebellion and prideful resistance to authority and God’s design
 - Picture of femininity here—a woman who loves God, loves Jesus, is respectful, is glad that God made her a woman and is walking in that identity.
 - Picture of masculinity here—a man who loves God, loves his wife and family, takes responsibility, leads like Jesus, is glad that God made him a man and is walking in that identity.
 - Women embrace their roles as women and rightly respect authority and men embrace their roles as men and rightly exercise authority.
- **Complementarianism INVITES participation of women (v.5)**
 - v.4—this is NOT a prohibition to participation of women.
 - The women ARE praying and prophesying.
 - When we relegate women to “only” kids ministry, we both devalue KIDS ministry and we undercut the beautiful dynamics of ministry by women in the church.
 - Women CAN teach and lead and have authority
 - Titus 2
 - Women should NOT exercise authority over men.
 - Why? Because the same pattern is true today that was then—if ladies rise up and lead, the men NEVER WILL. They will go passive, crawl under the rock and wither and that is not God’s design for our joy and his glory. That does NOT point to what is true about the Father and Son.
 - You say, well if I don’t then nobody will lead....GREAT—then let it burn! If men won’t step up and lead, then that is on THEIR shoulders, not yours.
- **Complementarianism is Rooted in Creation (v.7-10)**
 - We don’t take our cues from CULTURE but from CREATION and the right design of God
 - Genesis 1-2—It was BEFORE SIN that God made MALE and FEMALE and called it very good!
 - Temptation comes—Adam is passive, silent, disengaged—Eve steps up, takes leadership and leads in a terrible direction—They sin—A gender war ensues.
 - Women say, I got this, I’m going to lead, I’m going to get things done.
 - Men say, she doesn’t respect me, she doesn’t follow, she doesn’t listen.
 - He either responds in violence (chauvinism) or total indifference (Adam)
 - Head Coverings were the outcome of applying the principle of gender distinction—not binding today but the principle must still be applied with new, culturally-relevant outcomes.
 - v.7—man is the image and glory of God but woman is the image and glory of man.
 - Not saying that women are not also made in the image and glory of God. Paul is making the point is that females were created BY God, THROUGH Christ, FROM man.

- The point is NOT to LESSEN her relationship to God but to ALIGN/INFORM her relationship to man.
- Woman's recognition of the man's subordinate headship ultimately flows from her submission to Christ as ultimate head, who created people male and female. Paul uses the creation account to highlight the glory of God-ordained differences, created by God, between male and female and the shame and guilt that comes with violating those distinctions.
- God created man as his representation of reign and kingship and then created female FROM male as his helper and co-laborer. This is why male leadership and headship and female support and submission is the dynamic.
- v.10—because of angels
 - God created angels before mankind. He created them to obey and worship him. Some did that. Others didn't. They are demons.
 - The rejection of authority and the spirit behind it is demonic.
- **Complementarianism Means Men and Women Need Each Other (v.11)**
 - v.11—Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman.
 - UNITY—we must be EQUAL...we must be ONE in order for this to be a means of joy and flourishing.
 - Marriage—Husbands and wives are ONE FLESH
 - Church—men leading and women supporting relies on and demands UNITY.
 - Jesus says that he and Father are ONE
- **Complementarianism Flows from Nature (v.12-15)**
 - v.14-15—the issue of hair length is just another symbol of a greater truth—nature tells us that God created man and woman to be distinct yet mutually honoring people. He created men and women to look different and function differently.
 - While the SYMBOLS of cultural masculinity and femininity may change, the issue at hand, NATURE, does not change. God created man and woman to rightly walk in distinction from one another.
 - Nature, in God's design, is meant to cause guilt and shame when men and women reject their God-given masculinity and femininity.
 - Gender distinctions and role distinctions are part of God's PRE-SIN PLAN A for his glory.
 - Why? Because it is a direct outflow of the distinction of person yet equality of value found in the Trinity.
 - Masculinity and femininity are part of God's design. The principle is that women and men ought to communicate with their lives and dress and look what they celebrate to be God's gift of their gender.
 - It isn't necessarily sin for women to have short hair or men to have long—insofar as their heart isn't to run from their gender and being something other than what God made them.
- **Complementarianism is Ultimately About the Glory of God (10:31)**
 - Ultimately, this is not just about FUNCTION but about God's GLORY.
 - It is about saying right things about God...rightly celebrating and communicating who he is!
 - In the family and in the church EVERYONE IS UNDER AUTHORITY!
 - Men, women, children, pastors, deacons, members...authority is GOOD for us. Nurtures, protects, grows and allows us to be more like Jesus!