



# How to Behave in Worship

**1 Corinthians 11:2-16**

# Behavior in Worship

## PROPER & IMPROPER ...

- **11:2-16.** Decorum for men & women in worship
  - *“I commend you ...”* (11:2)
- **11:17-34.** Conduct at the Lord’s Supper
  - *“I do not commend you* (11:17)
- **Chapters 12—14.** Use of Spiritual gifts
  - *“I don’t want you to be uninformed”* (12:1)

## 1 Corinthians 11:2-4

*“Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head ...”*

## 1 Corinthians 11:4-7

*“but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head. For a man ought not to cover ...”*



## 1 Corinthians 11:7-11

*“his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. Nevertheless, in the Lord woman ...”*

## 1 Corinthians 11:11-15

*“is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God. Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, but if a woman has ...”*

# 1 Corinthians 11:15-16

*“long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering. If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.” (ESV)*

A man in a dark shirt and glasses is walking through a field of tall, dry grass, carrying a large wooden cross on his back. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is contemplative and challenging.

# Difficulties

A careful analysis can uncover at least  
22 crucial, but debatable issues.



# A Few of the Difficulties


- What is meant by “head”?
- Is the use of “man” & “woman” general, or is it a reference to a husband & wife?
- Does the “head covering” refer to a veil or to hair itself?
- Who are the angels and why are they mentioned?
- Is the issue discussed a cultural issue or do we have mandated regulations here?
- What is the role of women in the church?

# Little Consensus

- Leon Morris
- FF Bruce
- I. Howard Marshall
- William Craig
- Craig Blomberg
- Kenneth Bailey
- Ben Witherington
- D.A. Carson
- C.F.D. Moule
- George B. Caird
- Wayne Meeks
- Gordon D. Fee

# A Difficult Passage!

- The difficulties “still await a really convincing explanation.” —C.F.D. Moule
- “It can hardly be said that the passage has yet surrendered its secret.” —George Caird
- This is “one of the most obscure passages in the Pauline letters.” —Wayne Meeks
- “This passage is full of notorious exegetical difficulties.” —Gordon Fee



Paul was Concerned  
**ABOUT WORSHIPING GOD ...**  
By Applying the Principles  
of Scripture



# 1 Corinthians 11:2

*“Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered (traditioned) them to you.” (ESV)*

# Tradition (*paradosis*)

- Literally: “handed to” or “handed down.” Paul’s use equates it with inspired apostolic teaching.

– *“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you ...”* (1 Cor 11:23)

– *“So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.”*

(2 Thess 2:15)

“HOW TO BEHAVE IN WORSHIP”



Paul was Concerned  
**ABOUT WORSHIPING GOD ...**  
In the Husband & Wife  
Relationship of Marriage

## Man (*anēr*) & Woman (*gymē*)

- There is no word in the Greek language for the word “husband” except the word for “man.”
- There is no word in the Greek language for the word “wife” except the Greek word for “woman.”



## 1 Corinthians 11:3

*“But I want you to understand that the head of every man (*anēr*) is Christ, the head of a wife (*gymē*) is her husband (*anēr*), and the head of Christ is God.”* (ESV)

*“But I want you to understand that the head of every husband is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.”*

# 1 Corinthians 11:7

*“For a man (*anēr*) ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman (*gymē*) is the glory of man (*anēr*).”*

(ESV)

*“For a husband ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but the wife is the glory of the husband.”*

*“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband.”*

(Proverbs 12:4, ESV)

“HOW TO BEHAVE IN WORSHIP”

# 1 Corinthians 11:11

*“Nevertheless, in the Lord, woman (*gymē*) is not independent of man (*anēr*) nor man (*anēr*) of woman (*gymē*).”* (ESV)

*“Nevertheless, in the Lord, the wife is not independent of the husband nor the husband of the wife.”*

The background of the slide features a silhouette of a person on a cross, set against a dramatic sky with a sunset or sunrise. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The person on the cross is positioned on the left side of the frame, with their arms outstretched. The overall mood is solemn and reflective.

# Ephesians 5:25, 28, 29

*“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ... In the same way husbands should love their wives ... just as Christ does the church.” (ESV)*





Paul was Concerned About  
**WORSHIPING GOD ...**

By Following  
His Creative Design

## Matthew 19:4-6

*“Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (ESV)*

# Application

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- We must be sensitive to certain cultural connotations and avoid those things which imply inappropriate behavior.
- Husbands and wives should live in mutual interdependence.
- **We must bring our best to worship.**



# How to Behave in Worship

*“If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.” (16)*