

GOD CARES ABOUT OUR HAIR

We read in **Luke 12:7** that our loving God is so concerned about us that our very hairs are numbered. **1 Corinthians 11** reveals that He is also concerned about the length of our hair, the style, and whether it covers or uncovers our head. Our hairstyle shows God just how much we want to please Him, obey Him, and respect the authority of His Word, the Bible. Please study the following words from God:

1 Corinthians 11:3 *But I want you to understand that **Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.***

4 *Every **man** who has something [long hair] on his **head** while praying or prophesying **disgraces his head.***

5 *But every **woman** who has her **head uncovered** [short hair] while praying or prophesying **disgraces her head, for she is one and the same as the woman whose head is shaved** [like the prostitutes].*

6 *For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off [like prostitutes]; but if it is **disgraceful** for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her **head.***

7 *For a man ought not to have his **head covered**, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.*

8 *For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man;*

9 *for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.*

10 *Therefore **the woman** ought to have a **symbol of authority** [long hair] on her **head**, because of the angels.*

11 *However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.*

12 *For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.*

13 *Judge for yourselves: is it **proper** for a woman to pray to God with her **head uncovered**?*

14 *Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a **dishonor to him**,*

15 *but if a woman has long hair, it is a **glory to her**? For her hair is given to her for a covering.*

16 *But if one is inclined to be contentious, we have **no other practice**, nor have the churches of God. [All Churches have the same rule and practice]*

Now read again **1Cor. 11: 14-15**. These are the key verses in this portion of Scripture. In verse **14**, what should you naturally understand?

What should you understand in vs. **15**? _____
According to vs. **16**, did other churches have a different teaching? _____
What kind of person would not agree with this teaching? _____
What does "contentious" mean? _____

According to vs. **3**, who is the head of the woman? _____
In vs. **9**, why was the woman created? _____

Vs. **7** tells us why the man should not have long hair. The man is _____
According to vs. **4**, a man praying or prophesying with long hair does what? _____ In vs. **14**, what makes a man "dishonorable"? _____

Romans 1:24 *Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be **dishonored** among them. **25** For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

26 *For this reason God gave them over to **degrading** passions; for their **women exchanged the natural function** for that which is unnatural, **27** and in the same way also [as the lesbians] the **men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another**, men with men committing indecent acts [homosexuality] and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*

The word "dishonor" is a very strong word. In **Romans 1:24**, the word is used to explain what? _____
The same word, in Greek, is used in **Romans 1:26-27** as "degrading". What were the dishonorable or "degrading" things being done in these verses? _____

Go back to **1 Cor. 11**. In vs. **5**, what does it say about a woman who has her head uncovered? _____ What kind of women shaved their heads? _____ In verse **6**, what two things are **disgraceful**? _____
In verse **15**, what is the covering God wants her to use? _____

Note: The Greek word for "**disgrace** (s) (ful)" is also translated as *sordid, improper, filthiness, and shame* in other New Testament verses.

GOD, MAN, AND ANGELS

There are four situations or reasons for proper hair length for men and women given in **1 Cor. 11**. The first two are found in vv. **4-5**, "...when _____ or _____." How often should one be praying and prophesying (edifying, exhorting, and consoling)? _____

The third reason is explained in vv. **7-9**, and summarized in vs. **10** as a symbol of your understanding of God's established _____ .

The fourth reason is related to the third, and is found at the end of vs. **10**, "...because of the _____ ". What do you think the angels are doing? _____ What two types of angels are there? _____ Why do you think these angels are watching you? _____

HOW LONG IS LONG?

From this study, we have learned that God is concerned about both the LENGTH of men and women's hair, and whether or not the HEAD is COVERED with that hair. The ears are part of the head and placed within the hair line. When hair is long, and down, it will naturally cover the woman's ears and the neck, thus fulfilling God's desires for her as revealed in **1 Corinthians 11**. It is obvious that although a woman has long hair, it can be arranged in an unnatural way to defeat the purpose of that hair. What is the purpose of the long hair in verse **15**? _____

1 Timothy 2:9 *Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,*

In this verse, women are given certain guidelines of modesty. What is said about hair? _____

Braided hair or ponytails may leave the ears, neck, and head uncovered. How does this violate **1 Cor. 11:15**? _____

What are the two disgraceful things mentioned in **1 Cor. 11:6** that also expose the ears and neck? _____

If a man's hair naturally covers his ears and neck, but he has it braided up, or in a ponytail, is his head uncovered? _____ Does he have long hair? _____ Is he pleasing to God according to verse **14**? _____ Is a woman with braided hair or ponytails, (exposing her ears, neck, and head), pleasing to God according to verse **5**? _____

APPLICATION

1 Cor. 11:1-10 teaches us that our hairstyles are important to our heavenly Father when we are praying and prophesying because of God's established authority between men and women, and because of the angels. The words "praying" and "prophesying" should describe the daily activities of an obedient Christian. Our lives should be spent praying -- talking to God about our needs or the needs of others, or thanking Him and praising Him. When we are not talking to God (praying), we should be prophesying --- talking about God. We should be trying to talk to others who don't know Him, or fellowshiping with other Christians. (There will be times when we are not praying or prophesying, but the Bible makes it clear that we need to be ready "in season and out of season" to meet the need of the moment.) **1 Cor. 14:3** defines prophesying as edifying, exhorting, and counseling other people, verbally ministering to believers as well as unbelievers. We have seen in God's Word that men and women are to have proper hairstyles at those times of praying and prophesying. God expects us to be discreet, modest, and to give no offense when praying or prophesying because of the angels, and because we recognize God's established authority. Although we have much lateral movement in our hairstyles, some of those that may satisfy God's principles in **1 Cor. 11**, do not meet the requirements of **1 Tim. 2:9**. What two words in **1 Tim. 2:9** describe how our clothing (and HAIR) should appear? _____, _____

1 Corinthians 10:31-32 *Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God;*

In **1 Corinthians 10:31**, what should we do to the glory of God? _____ What are we warned NOT to do to ANYONE in vs. **32**? _____ From the two words in **1 Tim. 2:9**, and word in **1 Cor. 10:32**, what are three words that should describe our hairstyle? M_____ D_____ NO _____

Revelation 9:7-8 *The appearance of the [demonic] locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the **faces of men**. They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions.*

In **Revelation 9:7-8**, what is the phrase God uses to describe the hair of these male demons? _____. What do you think is distinct about their hair? _____. What is "hair like

the hair of women?" _____. What is hair like a man? _____.
Who should have long hair? _____. Whose example are men
following today if they have long hair? _____

OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCES

Ezekiel 44:20 *“Also they shall not shave their heads, yet they shall not let their locks grow long; they shall only trim the hair of their heads.*

Even in the Old Testament God reveals His concern for men's hair. In the above verse, what two things are the Levitical priests NOT allowed to do with their hair? _____

Leviticus 21:5 *‘They shall not make any **baldness** on their heads, nor shave off the edges of their beards, nor make any cuts in their flesh.*

What else were they not allowed to do? _____

Deuteronomy 32:41-42 *If I sharpen My flashing sword, and My hand takes hold on justice, I will render vengeance on My adversaries, and I will repay those who hate Me. ‘I will make My arrows drunk with blood, And My sword will devour flesh, with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the **long-haired** leaders of the enemy.’*

In the above verses, God is speaking about His people, Israel--"Jeshurun." In verse **32**, He compares them to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, and is going to allow Israel's enemies to punish them. In verse **41**, God will punish Israel's enemies, and calls them His "adversaries". In verse **42**, what derogatory statement is made about the "leaders of the enemy?" _____

Jeremiah 9:25-26 *“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “that I will punish all who are circumcised and yet uncircumcised—Egypt and Judah, and Edom and the sons of Ammon, and Moab and all those inhabiting the desert who **clip the hair on their temples**; for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised of heart.”*

Above, God refers to how He will "punish" certain people who are "circumcised and yet uncircumcised". This means that they are the disobedient people of Israel.

In vs. 26, what are their hairstyles? _____ How do these hairstyles violate the verse in **Lev. 19:27** following?

Leviticus 19:27 ‘*You shall not round off the side-growth of your heads nor harm the edges of your beard.*

Do you think, from what you have learned, that God wants long curls coming down from men's temples, like the religious Jews in Jerusalem, or does He want men to preserve the natural hairline He has created for them? _____ What do you think God's opinion is of some of the present-day hairstyles, such as the partially shaved mushroom, the mohawk, the shaving of lines or initials in the hairline, or the shaving of the back of the head? _____ Are you ashamed, unhappy, or not content with the hairline God has given you? _____ Do you remember the three words that should describe a proper hairstyle? M _____ D _____ NO _____

VINE'S DICTIONARY WORDS FOR:

HIDE, HID , HIDDEN

A. Verbs

1. krupto (2928), "to cover, conceal, keep secret" (Eng, "crypt" cryptic," etc., is used (a) in its physical significance, eg, Matt. 5:14; 13:44; 25:18 (some manuscripts have No. 2); (b) metaphorically, e.g. Matt. 11:25 (some manuscripts have No. 2 here); 13:35,RV "(things) hidden"; KJV, "(things)" things which have been kept secret"; Luke 18:34; John 19:38, "secretly" See secret.

5. kalupto 2572 signifies "to cover to conceal" so that no trace of it can be seen" (hence somewhat distinct form number 1: It is not translated "to hide" in the RV: In 2 Cor. it is rendered "veiled," suitably continuing the subject of 3:13-18: in Jas. 5:20 "shall hide" KJV (RV, " shall cover"). See cover

6. Parakalupto (3871), Lit., "to cover with a veil," KJV, "hid" in Luke 9:45, "it was veiled from them", see conceal.

COVER, COVERING

A. Verbs

5. katakalupto (2619) "to cover up" (kata, intensive), in the middle voice, "to cover oneself" is used in 1 Cor. 11:6-7 (RV, "veiled".)

Note: In 1 Cor. 11:4, “having his head covered” is lit, “having (something) down the head.”

B. Nouns

1. peribolaion (4018) lit. denotes “ something thrown around” (peri, “around,” ballo, “to throw”); hence, “ a veil, covering,” 1 Cor. 11:15 (marg.), or “ a mantle around the body, a vesture,” Heb.1:12. See CLOTHING, NOTE (1), vesture.

HAIR

A. Nouns

2. kome (2864) is used only of “human hair” but not in the NT of the ornamental. The word is found in 1 Cor. 11:15, **where the context shows that the “covering” provided in the long “hair” of the woman is a veil, a sign of subjection to authority, as indicated in the headship spoken of in vv. 1-10.**

B. Verb

komao (2863) signifies “to let the hair grow long, to wear long hair,” **a glory to a woman, a dishonor to a man (as taught by nature,)** 1 Cor. 11:14-15.

APPLICATION

The above definitions from *VINE'S Dictionary of New Testament Words* helps us to understand the following truths that GOD reveals to us concerning hair in **1 Cor. 11:1-16**:

* the Greek word translated "cover, covered, or (un)covered" means to conceal so that no trace can be seen. (vv. 5-7,& 13),

* the word "covering" in vs. 15 relates to a mantle or clothing and absolutely cannot refer to a "see-through" veil or small hat on top of a woman's head.

* the definition of HAIR and its context in vs.15 make it very clear that as VINE states, "the long hair [hanging down, thus covering the neck and ears] of the woman is as a veil, a sign of subjection to authority as indicated in the headships spoken of in vv. 1-10. "

SUMMARY

After completing this study, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind concerning our heavenly Father's attitude about our hair. It should also be obvious that our Lord Jesus DID NOT have long hair, as Roman artwork portrays Him, and that the Shroud of Turin is nothing but a fraud, since it shows a dishonorable man with long hair. In **John 8:29** Jesus says that He always does the things pleasing to His Father. Can that be said of us concerning our hairstyle? Remember, **1 Cor. 11:14-15** are the key verses for us as Christians, concerning hair today. The idea of requiring veils and hats for the women in the churches comes from the lack of understanding of **1 Cor. 11** that the HAIR is for the covering. The veil does not replace or allow for short hair.

Also understand that God's concern for our hair has never been a cultural issue. Instead, He addresses the topic of hair in regard to the man's authority, the woman under his authority, proper worship, and watching angels. Our hairstyles show God, the world, and angels that we love Him by obeying Him. It is a test of our obedience and has nothing to do with our salvation. We should obey our Father because we appreciate what the LORD JESUS did by suffering on the cross and in hell in our place. We obey because we ARE saved, and born again, not to get or stay saved.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 *Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.*

10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

What should your ambition as a Christian be? _____ Why?
(verse 10) _____

As we saw earlier, we want to again leave God's Word as a final reminder to those who may be contrary or "contentious" concerning His teaching on men and women's hair.

***But if one is inclined to be contentious,
we have no other practice, nor have the churches of God.
1 Cor. 11:16.***