

**The Two Thousand Year Morph**

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**I Corinthians 11:1-16** <sup>1</sup>You are to imitate me, just as I imitate Christ. <sup>2</sup>Now I commend you for remembering me in everything and for maintaining the traditions, just as I passed them on to you. <sup>3</sup>But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. <sup>4</sup>Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. <sup>5</sup>And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for it is just as if her head were shaved. <sup>6</sup>If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off. And if it is shameful for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head. <sup>7</sup>A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. <sup>8</sup>For man did not come from woman, but woman from man. <sup>9</sup>Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. <sup>10</sup>For this reason a woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head, because of the angels. <sup>11</sup>In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. <sup>12</sup>For just as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God. <sup>13</sup>Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? <sup>14</sup>Doesn't nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, <sup>15</sup>but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. <sup>16</sup>If anyone is inclined to dispute this, we have no other practice, nor do the churches of God. (BSB)

**Galatians 3:26-28** <sup>26</sup>You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (BSB)

**Intro:** We have two distinct passages that are both written by the Apostle Paul. They seem to disagree with each other. One says that there are stark distinctions between men and women and the other says that God sees us as all being equal.

I. Here are the details of these two passages.

A. This is an extremely hard passage to put into a 21<sup>st</sup> century **context!** There were customs in that century that are not applicable to us today.

1. The **equality** established in Galatians 3 has penetrated the whole world. Men and women are now seen as **equal**.

2. The length of one's hair is no longer an issue in how they are **treated** in most areas of the world. V. 6

3. There was always a mutual **respect** for both sexes taught in Scripture. V. 12

4. Most of the teaching in this passage was totally **relevant** for the church culture two thousand years ago. There are still some **basic** principles that need to be enculturated for today.

B. Paul is establishing himself as a **trustworthy** mentor. V. 1-2

C. Here are some **lasting** principles from this passage.

1. Males **cannot** dump all the responsibilities on women and abandon their families and culture. They will be held **accountable** for what happens in their realm of influence. V. 3
2. Women should **resist** the temptation to do everything themselves.  
**Ephesians 5:21** Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (BSB)
3. Structure for leadership is not an **evil** thing in itself. Jesus Christ submits to the Father not because the Father is “more God” than He but because, again structure for leadership is a good thing.
4. Scripture is firm that there are **inherent** differences between men and women. These differences do not make one more powerful than the other nor more important than the other. A well-functioning society **needs** both to be working together.

II. What are some practical applications of this difficult passage?

- A. Both boys and girls need **strong** adult mentors today. We seem to have a shortage of adults who value the importance of children.
- B. As Christians, we must **reject** what our culture says about gender and accept that God has created us male and female. Both sexes have roles to play in our culture and families.
- C. The husband and wife must **agree** on roles that they are to play in the family. There should be a structure for handling disagreements. This doesn't have to be a one size fits all. There are many ways to implement a godly structure in our families. **Value** must be given to women, men, and children.