

Because of the Angels

1 Corinthians 11:4 – 16



~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God has been considering Christian liberties in our previous several reports. There are, obviously, a few seemingly minor issues that constantly arise in a congregation; and they stir up huge debates. Unfortunately, this typically leads to division in the church; and contention within the body of Christ is never good. So, let us pray for unity in Him and for the church of genuine believers to edify one another in the mind of Christ as we traverse this section of Scripture.

In our last report, we considered how the man is the head of the woman, Christ is the head of the man, and the Father is the Head of Christ. If you haven't read our last report I *HIGHLY* suggest you go back and do so now. There is only one normal and natural way for the body of Christ to function; and that way is according to His Mind — revealed only in His Word....

⁴ Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

⁵ But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

⁶ For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

~ This admonishment concerning head-covering was for the church at Corinth in the day in which we are studying; and we need to consider all of this truth in that light. God was concerned with what the women were wearing because an unveiled woman was a prostitute in Corinth. God, naturally, wanted His saved women to stand distinctly apart from the

Vestal Virgins down at the temple of Aphrodite. Many of those prostitutes had their heads shaven.

This Spiritual Safari isn't going into men's haircuts and women's coverings except to say that God is interested in what you wear and how you wear it. God took the time to number your hairs and keep track of them – so, they all matter! Maybe you think your hairdresser is the only person who knows certain things; well, God knows it all. The most insignificant details of our lives come under microscopic inspection by God. When you undress, you don't close the door on God. We have *NO* privacy from God whatsoever. The most intimate details of our lives are an open file in the Great Physician's office in Heaven.

So, if we consider Paul was writing to the church in Corinth this study will be much more meaningful to our understanding. What does carry over is that a woman has a right to become a theologian. A woman can pray and prophecy in church. Interestingly, there has never been an outstanding female preacher. You may disagree with that, so, I'll concede there are many female *teachers* who can out-teach any male counterpart. But not preaching; because womanhood naturally lacks authority. Also, the veil is a matter of the subjection of the woman – not to man – but to God. A nice hat is certainly a moral-builder for most women. Either way, a woman's dress is the fraternity pin of her ministry.

2 Timothy 2:⁸ *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*⁹ *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;*¹⁰ *But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works ~*

If a woman uses *any* type of sex appeal in her witness, she pollutes and destroys said testimony completely. That means one hundred percent of the time. No woman will ever win her husband by using sex, either. Jezebel tried using sex — and seduction can be effective for a while — but there came the day she failed embarrassingly. There are countless Christian

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Tragedies where the husband-and-wife abuse sex as a tool for manipulation. No prayers for blessings are ever answered in that family – you may be absolutely sure. There’s only one way to approach God, friends – His way. Of course, I realize there are many great women in the Bible, such as Sarah and Deborah, Hannah and Abigail; and Mary, the mother of Jesus. *THOSE* are the examples for women to follow — so it may be well with them....

1 Peter 3:¹ *Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives....*⁴ *But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price....*⁷ *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to spiritual knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered ~*

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⁷ ***For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.***

⁸ ***For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.***

~ It is absolutely critical to get this principle straight; or we can never have a successful love relationship with another human being – period. The natural place of a woman is as a helpmeet to her man. She is another aspect of his being. No man is complete without having known the love of a good and Godly woman at some point in his life.

As we move on, we’ll have a rare angel sighting in our Spiritual Safari in verse ten. We sure don’t hear this angelic verse thrown around much; in fact, it’s one verse grab I’ve *never* seen. I have heard every plausible and otherwise quasi-credible non-explanation for verse ten. And let’s not let this get around the internet, but I don’t understand it. Our official safari

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ruling on verse ten is: no comment. Feel free to let me know what it means. First, however, pray for the Spirit of God to open our minds in Holy Writ.

What I do know is God's created intelligences are observing you – and me – right now. Supernatural? – You bet it is. They are finding out about the love of God from us, my friend. We are participating on a very small stage of life in a dreadful second-rate theater called world. The world *KNOWS* the church isn't worthy of the love of God, and they cannot reconcile that in their minds. Frankly, God would have done well to just get rid of us as a race – period – all of us; true justice would demand removing humanity from His creation. The End. Let's just keep this real.

Let's also thank Him that He loves us and shows us His love in grace and mercy. These are some tremendous spiritual truths we all need to work out in our hearts and lives – and the sooner the better. Following is God's ideal standard for marriage; and we are to consider it from the bride's perspective. Down here, if you do not have *ALL* of the following attributes in Christ, then you don't have a Christian marriage. I didn't say so – the Bible tells us these things....

⁹ Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

¹⁰ For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

¹¹ Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

¹² For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

~ No man is a sphere. Man is a hemisphere; with woman as his other half. Modern womanhood declares herself a sphere with "woman's liberty;" but it's nonsense for a woman to merely contemplate "liberation" in the first

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place. Man needs woman — and likewise, naturally. The Christian Liberty we have in Christ emulates the glorious relationship we have in marriage. This is all important in our lives....

13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

~ Women should not be calling attention to themselves in a provocative, prideful or prostituting manner. When a woman is speaking publicly for the Lord – teaching a Bible class – there can be no appeal to sex whatsoever. A woman has the power to lift a man up or tear him down. By contrast, the man with long hair has not found his sufficiency in God. I know someone will disagree; but long hair on a man is a statement that there is no plan or purpose for his life. I speak on this from experience; so, don't waste your time trying to straighten me out....

14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

~ You will remember the Nazarite vow consisted of three elements: one was not to have any wine or strong drink; two was not to ever touch any dead thing – no exceptions; and then there was number three: “*no razor shall come upon his head.*” Never getting a haircut meant those men were willing to bare shame for the Lord! Your long hair may please some around you, but the angels are ashamed of you. There are *MANY* other marks of a decadent age, too — we'll leave it at that for now....

15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari concludes this report being given more liberty in Christ. If you want hair down to your ankles, my friends, that's your

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business. Make sure it glorifies God. Our moral values have been abandoned in modern society — why worry about them now, right? We need people to represent Christ in *EVERY* aspect of their life; but very few do. You'll have to form your own conclusions through prayer about extremism in either direction. Many are in rebellion against Puritan theology. The word "*theology*" has been so abused that it is currently regarded as some sinister thing. The unlearned abject impoverishment of wisdom in uneducated men and women regarding spiritual matters is positively frightening!

Even very normal things can easily become extremism; so we must pray and ask God to give us understanding, wisdom and discernment in His Word. We don't care about haircuts and dress fashions in this safari. What we do care about is taking the entire Word of God to the entire world properly, correctly and completely. What matters is our inner man; even if that old nature desperately needs a haircut. We all need a new, fresh and clean Robe of Righteousness every day. If your old nature is clothed and under the control of the Holy Spirit — then I promise you the Holy Spirit will give it a haircut. No rules; Paul is just telling us what he thinks.

In pursuit of perfecting our Christian liberty, we are to consider the substance other people see in our witness for God. We are to esteem others better than ourselves and consider the welfare of others above our own. The deciding factor of our responsibility in Christian liberty is to fully understand the testimony we present to a lost and dying world. This is likely the single most difficult part of anyone's Christian walk; and it is the entire point of this section of Scripture.

In our next report, we're going from one misunderstood extreme to another recklessly misapplied extreme as we examine the most sacred and holy thing we could ever do together — and we're going to do it together, spiritually: we'll partake of the Lord's Supper on safari. The Lord's Supper is borderline blasphemy as it is currently practiced in many modern churches. John said we would be judged on the way we observe the Lord's Supper. That's something to really think about. Some amongst the Corinthians were

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sick — and some had died; simply because of the way they had observed the Lord's Supper. They did not discern the Body of Christ in what they were doing. Examine yourself, friends; and see if ye be in the faith ~

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