

Intro:

1. This morning, we are going to begin to look at a passage that has found itself in the center of a heated debate in some Christian circles.
 - a. This has become a controversial passage of sorts because it deals with the topics of modesty and submission
 - b. The contention surrounds Paul's instructions for women to keep their head covered.
 - c. Many people, when they hear of head coverings immediately think of this... (pic of Muslim woman with only her eyes showing)
2. Some say that this is an irrelevant topic for today and try to dismiss the topic or gloss over it by saying it only applied to the women during that time period.
 - a. I say that it would not be proper to just dismiss this topic as an outdated cultural concern.
 - b. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write this and preserve this for our instruction and edification.
3. But I'm sorry to say that we are not going to get into those issues this morning.
 - a. We are going to go through this passage twice, focusing first on its application to men and then coming back next week to focus on its application to women.

Read 1 Cor 11:1-16 and Pray¹

1. What is a man? (in the eyes of the world)

R = Respectful to others.

E = Not afraid to show his Emotions.

A = Equally Affectionate & Appreciative to his family.

L = Listen with intent to his wife and kids.

M = Well Mannered in all life's settings.

E = Earning his own way through life is paramount.

N = Neatness, for him everything has a place.

¹ Unless otherwise marked, all scriptures taken from the New King James Version. © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

*What is a man?
 Is he someone who is strong and tall,
 Or is taut and talented as he plays ball?
 Is he someone who is hardened and rough,
 Who smokes and drinks and swears enough?
 Is he someone who chases women hard,
 With a quest to conquer, but never dropping his guard?
 Is he someone with a good business mind,
 Who gets ahead of the others with his nose to the grind?
 Or is he someone who tries his best,
 Not really caring about any of the rest?
 What is a man? Does anyone know?
 TELL ME!
 Who is the prototype? To whom shall I go?*

2. Have you struggled with this question? I know I have!
3. What is a man? This is a key question to understanding our passage
 - a. I have dedicated our entire time together this morning to considering what God's plan is for the man of God.

1 Corinthians 11:1 **Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.**

1. Paul was a mentor and a model for the believers in the early church to follow.
2. Paul was not a “do as I say and not as I do” kind of person.
 - a. Paul visually demonstrated his faith in Christ by his actions.
3. Men, we all need a guy like Paul in our life.
 - a. A man who is more mature; a man whose faith is evident and his love for Christ is real. A mentor we can follow.
4. If you have no interaction with Christians during the week and your Christian fellowship is limited to Sunday morning alone, I'm going to tell you that you are standing on dangerous ground.
 - a. You need other Christian men to help keep you accountable.

5. But in order for this to work, we have to be honest with ourselves...
 - a. A man's pride tells him to journey alone.
 - b. A man's heart tells him to remain quiet.
 - c. A man's mind tells him nobody will understand.
 - d. A man's emotions tell him to keep it under control.

6. Still not sure if a Christian mentor is what you need? Consider this testimonial...

Christian mentoring has been indispensable for me! In my own journey, I have three mentors. I have a spiritual Christian mentor, I have a family Christian mentor, and I have a business Christian mentor. My spiritual Christian mentor pushes me in my formation as God's man. My family Christian mentor pushes me to be all that God wants me to be in the family as a dad and husband. And, my business Christian mentor pushes me to become fully integrated to God's plan in my work ethic and transactions.

7. Men, a Christian mentor is a great source of strength, encouragement, & accountability. Find a good Christian man in whom you can imitate.

1 Corinthians 11:2 **²Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.**

1. Paul had spent somewhere between 18 months and 2 years in Corinth during his 2nd missionary journey.
2. He commends them for following the traditions that he taught them during that time.
3. If Paul could look at your life and could see the way you are living today, would he commend you or condemn you for what you are or are not doing?
 - a. Your actions say a lot about what is important to you.

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

1. Notice that the word “head” is used 3 times.
 - a. This speaks of authority and control.
 - b. Some people have a problem with this verse and these kinds of instructions.

2. Let's recast this principle in a different light to make sense of it...
 - a. On the battle field, there are men in an infantry platoon that have anywhere from 6 months to as much as 20+ years of experience.
 - b. Some have never seen battle before and there are some that are salty and seasoned battle veterans.
 - c. In command of that infantry platoon is a young, Lieutenant, likely only in his early 20s, leading this group into what may be his very first enemy encounter.
 - d. *Question:* Is that Lieutenant better than everyone else in his platoon because he's in charge? Of course not.
 - e. No one questions the authority established by the military; we all understand that without that established authority and control there would be no victory on the battlefield.

3. In the same way, God has established authority and lines of control that enable us to live victorious Christian lives.
 - a. Although women are equal in value, and often equal or superior in ability to men, God has ordained an order that puts the man as the leader over his wife.
 - b. But authority and control does not begin with the man

Authority begins with the Triune God

1. Looking in the Gospel of John, Jesus said...
 - a. John 3:35 *The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.*
 - b. John 10:30 *"I and My Father are one."*
 - c. John 12:49 *For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.*
 - d. While Christ and the Father are one, Jesus is submitted to the Father's will.
 - e. And because the Father has given His beloved Son all things, Christ is our Authority, or specifically a man's authority in all matters.

The next level of authority exists with the man **the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man**

1. Men, according to God's word, you have been placed under Christ's authority and control.
 - a. Just as everyone from Private through Gunny obeys the commands and directions issued by his Lieutenant, we are to be under the direction of our Lord Jesus.
 - b. But the great thing is that we don't have to deal with bad decisions made by the "butter-bar" Lieutenant.
 - c. Our Lord is perfect and true. He will never lead us astray.

Notice that Paul writes, "**the head of woman is man**"

1. As a reminder, today's focus is on Man's role in this whole thing.
 - a. Next week we'll look at a godly woman's response to Paul's instructions.
2. Men, in order for this thing to work, it's imperative that you are getting your marching orders from the Lord.
 - a. You have been called into a relationship whereby you are to be seeking the Lord and leading your family.
 - b. The head of woman is man, and I'm here to tell you that that is an awesome and weighty responsibility.
 - c. Don't take that role lightly!

Men, there's a few things you need to know about your role and authority...

1. In the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve sinned...
 - a. Who took the first bite? Eve took the first bite. BTW, Adam was by her side when Eve was deceived and ate of the fruit.
 - b. After they had both sinned, it was Adam that God came looking for.
 - c. Gen 3:9 *Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"*

- d. What was Adam's curse for not leading Eve: Genesis 3:17-19
 - i. At this point, sin severed the relationship between God and all of mankind.
 - ii. Because of sin, all of mankind is separated from a perfect, holy, & righteous God.
 - iii. No matter how good of a person you try to be, you will ALWAYS remain separated from God unless you come to God the Father through faith in Jesus Christ His Son.
- e. Back to Genesis, there's a principle here: Things are always going to be more difficult for you if you are not leading your wife and family as the head of your house.

Men, you may have been given a place of authority, but remember that you are both equal in the sight of God.

1 Corinthians 11:11-12 ¹¹Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. ¹²For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.

1. Men and women are both needed; neither can live without the other.
2. And men and women are equal, but the husband is responsible.

Men, to be faithful and true as head over your wife, you need to know the standard for loving your wife. – Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her.*

1. Of course Ephesians 5 has a lot more to say to husbands and for the sake of time we'll focus on this 25th verse alone.
2. Loving your wife is more than providing for her financially. Loving your wife is more than providing for her materially.
 - a. When doing a little research on how men show love I found a reoccurring theme...

- b. ‘Men Show Love Through Their Actions’ and ‘Guys try to impress with their accomplishments.’
 - c. Guys generally feel that they are showing their wife and family love by working hard for them.
 - d. But that doesn’t necessarily follow the bible’s model for men.
 - e. Just as Christ meets our needs emotionally and spiritually, so too, you are nurture and care for your wife emotionally and build her up spiritually by being a godly man in your home.
3. Going all the way back to Adam, men have done a good job with working hard.
- a. That hard work has often resulted in decent salaries and exciting professional opportunities.
 - b. But how well are you doing men with setting your wife apart from this world, sanctifying her with the Word of God. (Eph 5:26)
 - c. How well are you doing with bringing up your children in the training and admonition of the Lord? (Eph 6:4)

Men, make note of 1 Peter 3:7, which says, *Husbands, (likewise,) dwell with [your wives] with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

1. Be understanding, that means be sensitive to her needs, fears, and feelings.
 - a. Don’t make her feel bad about her needs, fears, and feelings;
 - b. Learn how to meaningfully provide for her needs, lovingly put her fears to rest, and sensitively discern her true feelings.
2. Remember she is a weaker vessel. What does that mean?
 - a. Consider fine china and how expensive yet fragile it is.
 - b. It is most often proudly displayed in a hutch with glass doors. It handled carefully. It’s delicately washed.
 - c. Don’t treat your wife like household dishes, but honor her as something special because she is something special.

3. Don't miss the fact that when things are not right between you and your wife, your prayers can be hindered.
 - a. And who is responsible for a failure in communications with Higher Headquarters? If you are not sure, then ask Adam.
 - b. You husband are responsible for everything that takes place in your home and with your family.
4. If you want to get it right, then make sure you are keeping Christ first in all that you do.

Announcement: We have some great studies lined up for the men beginning this fall to help you men grow in your understanding of what God desires from you.

Bow your heads: Share the Gospel – If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior, then you are separated from God and will be destined to eternal condemnation because of the unforgiven sin in your life.

But God has made a way for your sins to be forgiven and your eternal destination to be Heaven with Him – that way is found only in Jesus Christ.

How does this happen? By faith, you repent of your sins, you believe in your heart that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for your sins on the cross and was resurrected on the third day and you will be saved.

Pray:

Please forgive me for all the sins I have every committed. I no longer want to live in sin separated from You.

I believe Jesus is God in the flesh who lived, died and was resurrected so that my sins might be forgiven. I want Jesus to be my Lord and Savior and I invite Him into my heart now.

It is my desire from this moment forward to follow Jesus as my Lord and Savior by loving Him with all my heart, soul, and strength.