

## Do I keep the ordinance?

“The truth about women head covering “

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By: Dov Avnon

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

**13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? 1 Corinthians 11**

I suppose it will be a good starting question “Do I keep the ordinance”? Do I follow Paul in that matter as he follows Christ?

The answers of course will be different. “

Some will say “yes I do because it is written!

Others will say:

“No I am not because I do not see it in that way!”

“No I am not because it was for THEN and not for NOW!”

“No I am not because it was only part of Paul early ministry!”

“No I am not because I walk by faith and not by sight”

“No I am not because it was just a custom”!

The so called “mid acts grace movement” do not accept the ordinance of women head covering in their teaching while they do accept the ordinance lord supper. Why? Because for some it is just a custom while others think that it has to do with the acts period or that the long her is the covering.

For years I was teaching too that the Lord supper is part of the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery and about woman head covering. I will better say, I did not know what to teach. So now

I hope that through this study, fellow grace believers and others will come to understand that what Paul is teaching us in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 is part of the gospel of Gods grace for this dispensation of Grace.

Dov Avnon – Nieuwegein The Netherlands 2010-07-25

### So what is all about?

It is about the headship and NOT about a temporary rule for the praying of professing women as many think. It is about the truth of “**...power on her head because of the angels**” and not about old Jewish custom.

Beside this, teaching the truth of 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 as part of the revelation of the mystery, will help us to understand that Paul received from the Lord only ONE gospel. ONE ministry and not early one and prison one as some are suggesting.

**15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. Acts 9:15; 22:15;26:16**

Paul was chosen by the Lord for one purpose to teach the world about Christ according to the new revelation of the mystery and this he did in all of his writings.

**25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: romans 16:25-26**

### Then and now

One argument that people use, not to follow Paul in those ordinances is “**It was for THEN and not for NOW**”. They call it Paul early ministry as if Paul received from the Lord two ministries.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when **that which is perfect** is come, **then** that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For **now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.** 1 Corinthians 13:9-12.

Dear reader you will not find the answer whether we should or should not follow Paul in this ordinance in the word THEN of 1 Corinthians 13:9-12. Because

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woman head covering was given to the church which is His body as an ordinance and not as part of the gifts.

In order to understand this subject, you will have to go further and learn about the difference between the gifts and the ordinances in the dispensation of God's grace.

**28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:28**

**11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: Ephesians 4**

**but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 1 Cor 13:8**

The gifts that God **gave** to the Church were temporary. It was not given because of Israel but as it is written

For the perfecting of the saints,  
for the work of the ministry,  
for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Those gifts came to the end long time ago and as far as I can say, were in operation only during Paul's life and ministry.

Lord's Supper and the truth about women head covering were never part of those gifts. Christ did not give it to Paul because of Israel but as part of the new revelation in order that we will follow it till today.

**Be ye followers of me**

**1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. 2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. 3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.**

Paul delivered the brethren of his time two important ordinances that he was teaching in all the churches **17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church. 1 Corinthians 4**

The brethren had to keep those ordinances like Paul was teaching them. Now we know that during the years it has been changed. The Catholic using the term Lord's Supper but it is far from what Paul was teaching in his letter. Also the truth about women head covering was not kept as it should and those, who do teaching it, do not know much about the dispensation of God's Grace.

Generally saying women are not always waiting to cover the head and so Paul call the brethren to keep those ordinances.

**Head of every man is Christ**

**3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.**

It is important to understand what Paul wants us to know. What is the reason that he writes them and us about this ordinance?

**that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.**

The subject is the headship!. This we should know and this is the reason that he write about **women head covering**. It is important to add that Paul is not writing here about Jewish wisdom or Old Testament truth but about knowledge which is part of the new revelation that the Lord gave him.

**Man and woman praying or prophesying**

**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.**

Those two verses are for many a good reason to think that Paul was teaching head covering only in the period that there was a gift of prophesy. What people forget is that he speaks about man and woman who are **praying or prophesying** and not only **prophesying**.

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Please note that when ever we start to mention the teaching of woman head covering. Those who rejecting it from the beginning are **fixated** only on verses 4,5. While Paul goes further and explaining what is al about.

I think most people accepted that the man at the church **should not cover his head**. Just think: who are those who do cover? Catholic leader, Muslim leader, Jews! Have you ever thought why?.....

From reading further then just verses 4,5 we will learn that the Apostle Paul had more in mind, when he was writing about this important ordinance. Paul teaching us, why man **should not** cover his head and why the woman **should**.

### About the man

If the man covers his head he **dishonoureth his head** – which is Christ according to vers 3

If the woman uncovered her head she **dishonoureth her head**: which the man according to vers 3

We know that God gave the church which is His body Prophets with the gift of prophesy. Prophecy in Paul’s letter is not just some one who speaks for God. It has to do with gift. I believe that this gift was temporary in the time that God gave the church apostles.

“And God hath set some in the church, **first apostles, secondarily prophets**, thirdly teachers... 1 Corinthians 12:28 And he gave some, **apostles; and some, prophets**...Ephesians 4:11

Let’s not forget that the Church which is His body is build on the foundation of those apostles and prophets who preached only Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.

And are built upon the foundation of **the apostles and prophets** ... Ephesians 4:11 as it is now revealed unto his holy **apostles and prophets** by the Spirit; Ephesians 3:5

It is important to emphasis that those gifts were not given to the Church because of Israel but as part of the revelation of the mystery. While the gifts were temporary the ordinances were given that we should know: **that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God**

**woman that prayeth or prophesies**

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

What about the woman? Was there any time that the women could prophesies when the church came together? The answer is no!

I will start with the fact that the above gifts were given only to men’s. Paul writes about the women: **34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.**

Please note again that the ordinance of head covering was not given because the gift of prophesy but because of the headship. (vers 3) Paul comparing between Man and woman in those two verses who doing the same.

I always say to people read 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 and you will understand that Paul is not writing about this ordinances for the **prophesies** women that in an other place he say **Let your women keep silence in the churches**.

There are always those who ask “but who are those women’s that Paul is talking about? Let’s not forget that many women’s followed Paul. **Acts 17:4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.**

Yes probably woman who were not silent at the church and who spoke with uncovered head. Other who does not rightly divided the word in this matter speaking about **your daughters shall prophesy** acts 2 :17 or about **Philip the evangelist ... had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy** acts 21:9.

Again, God gave the gift of prophesy under this dispensation of Grace only to man. Christ gave us through Paul the ordinances of head covering not because of the woman who never had the gift of prophesy but because op the headship. This is a witnessing for the following truth.

that the head of every man is Christ;  
and the head of the woman is the man;  
and the head of Christ is God

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### Shorn or 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.**

Like I already say read through what the apostle teach in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 and you will understand the context.

**if the woman be not covered** – What does the women should cover? Some teach that the long hair is the covering but then they do not really understand or accepted the point here.

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

The teaching in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 goes about that the women should cover her glory THE HAIR.

If a women hair is not cover when the church is coming together it is the same shame like the women **shorn or shaven** the hair.

It is her glory the hair that should be cover. Why? Not because she use to **prophecies** but because of the headship

that the head of every man is Christ;  
and the head of the woman is the man;  
and the head of Christ is God

**Shame** - The roots of the word shame are thought to derive from an older word meaning to cover; as such, covering oneself, literally or figuratively - shame is a violation values

2:9 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; 1 tim. 2:9

16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they **see his shame**. Rev. 16:16

If we will look around us we will find that people and even many so called bible believer are not any more SHAME to do all kind of things. They are not shame any more to go to church in very worldly dress, Or to dress them self during the week very worldly. The question is WHY?

Shame is a violation values! – If people are not teaching those values any more there is no shame. I

mean values according to the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.

It is strange to hear from people who seam to be educated grace believers, after they heard that we are teaching woman head covering saying “**Are you try to bring us back to the law**”? They are quoting **3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?** Galatians 3:3

So again we have to understand that the teaching about the “headship” and woman head covering is never mention in the law that God gave to Moses. It mentions for the first time in the revelation that Christ gave to Paul for the Church which is His body.

When we understand that woman head covering is part of the message of grace, then we understand that as Paul is teaching it, it is shame when a woman is not obeying this ordinance.

According to the bible it is a shame for a woman to walk with **shaven head** because God gave her the hair as a glory. The same is with head covering. I will emphasis it again. We need to teach “**What is shame**” before we speak about shame. In the world of today woman dressing or doing the hair according what man calls” **mode**” and not according how Paul is teaching us in his letters.

So if a woman during the time that the church is coming together do not want to **cover** it is for God like she **shorn**. So let this woman also shave the hair. But no. there is no Bible believing woman who is willing to attend the fellowship with shaven had. Why not? You see because the Bible teaches not the “mode” that it is a shame for a woman to have shaven head.

So what the problem people? **let her be covered**. You see how easy it is when we are listening to God. However this why people invent the theory that the hair of the woman is the covering which Paul is talking about but this is fare from being true in the light of the context.

**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.**

I believe and teach that verse 7 is the heart of the doctrine of head covering. The subject is not praying **or prophesying**. The subject is:

**he is (the man) the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.**

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The man SHOULD NOT cover  
The woman SHOULD cover.

Now we understand that when the Church is coming together. There is heavenly witness about who is the glory of whom. There is a teaching of what Paul wants them to know:

that the head of every man is Christ;  
and the head of the woman is the man;  
and the head of Christ is God

I must say that I knew verse 7 for long time and the words: **forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God.** I used this verse to speak with people mainly about the creation. Now I know the meaning of it in the context.

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

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

Paul teaches the Church here about the headship. He emphasis that in creation the woman was created for the man.

**11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. 1 Timothy 2**

It is important to note that what Paul write to the church in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 is about this different between man and women. If we look around we can see how the so called woman liberation movement is fighting against the rule of creation. The Church went also during the years after that liberation movement. So today it became very strange for people when they hear that a woman should cover the head when the Church is coming together.

**because of the angels**

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

Here we come for the main reason why Paul is teaching about woman head covering. Like I said before it is not about rule for the woman who is prophesying. The woman ought to cover because of the ANGELS.

Is it strange that Paul speaks about angels? No! the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery is mainly to show to the heavenly powers the unsearchable riches of God.

1 Cor. 4:9 ...for we are made a spectacle unto the world, **and to angels**, and to men.

1 tim. 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness.... **seen of angels** ...

Eph. 3:10 ....10 To the intent that now unto the **principalities and powers in heavenly places** might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

Eph. 6:12 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities, against powers, against the rulers** of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Paul is not speaking just about mean less covering of the head. It is a power. By doing it the woman witness about her place in what Christ wants us to know.

that the head of every man is Christ;  
and the head of the woman is the man;  
and the head of Christ is God

She also letting others know

**he is (the man) the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.**

We know that Satan is coming as an angel of light. He is trying to destroy any principle that God gave to the Church. One of them is the place that God gave to the woman in the headship.

Is it then strange to say that the angels looking at us? 1 tim. 3:16 .... **seen of angels** ... or that Paul was saying: 1 Cor. 4:9 ...for we are made a spectacle unto the world, **and to angels**

Not at all! Try to teach your church what Paul is teaching us in 1 corinthians. 11:1-16 and you will experience this heavenly warfare. Try to obey what Paul meant when he said: **Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ**, and you will understand the meaning of this truth when Paul write: **the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.**

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### But all things of God

**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.**

Many think that the truth about woman head covering has to do with submission. They are listening more to what the religion world say and not to what Paul is teaching.

Man and women in Christ are the basic for a great unity. Paul use this relation when he comparing Christ to the Church. **23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.** Eph. 5:23-32 **32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**

Dear reader please note, that the words of Paul to the Galatians ... **there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 3;28** are not in contradiction with his words to the Corinthians. In Galatians chapter 3 he is talking about that there is NO different when the context is: **29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

Man and Woman, with out any different, are **Abraham's seed, and heirs** only by Grace through faith, on the basic of the forgiveness of sin through the blood of Christ.

So while Paul is teaching **neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord** he teach them in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 some basic truth.

that the head of every man is Christ;  
and the head of the woman is the man;  
and the head of Christ is God

### Judge in yourselves

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

When I first heard about the truth of woman head covering, I thought it has to do with verses 4,5 **But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth.** People speaking mostly about the woman who **prophesieth** and they forget that the verse is speaking about **prayeth or prophesieth.**

After we saw that head covering is **because of the angels.** We are coming now to the third point in this teaching

- 1- **woman that prayeth or prophesieth** (vers 4,5)
- 2- **because of the angels** (vers 10)
- 3 - **pray unto God uncovered** (vers 13)

**Judge in yourselves** - 1 Corinthians chapters 10-11 teaching us that the believer should judge him self through the ordinances of Lord supper and head covering. It is not Judgement for punishment but for self control in the light of what Christ told Paul for this dispensation of Grace.

1 Corinthians 10:15-16 ... **judge ye what I say.**  
10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? See also 1 Corinthians 11:31-32.

Lord supper is not religion ritual. It is the moment during the time that the church is coming together that we can use to judge our walk and in some cases the church will judge if what we are doing is right of wrong, I mean in the light of the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery. **11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.** 1 cor. 5:11

That woman should cover the head when the church is coming together is ordinance that Christ gave to Paul for this dispensation of Grace. This why we read: **Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?**

A woman who enters a gathering when the Church is coming together should ask her self **is it comely** – do I Please God when I pray **uncovered?** Please note that Paul is not talking here about Prophecy.

A well educated Grace woman will probably say **“But in our mid acts grace churches woman do not pray during the service”?** Here we have to look very careful to what Paul is teaching us.

First of all, it is man made, that we say that only mans are praying because they can pray loud. No I do not teach either that woman should pray loud when the church is coming together. But defiantly woman should pray too when the man is praying. Even some of the songs that we are

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singing is like a prayer. We talk about praying in silence.

**Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing**

Paul is teaching us much more about prayer life but this is not the subject of this study, so I can only say – yes the woman’s in our church should pray when the church is coming together and therefore: **Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?**

### Long hair

**14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? 15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.**

When we are speaking about what is the covering that Paul is talking about in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16. We will find that some people teach that it is the hair of the woman. From reading the whole context we will find that when Paul wrote: **10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.** He was not talking about the woman hair.

Paul is comparing here between the nature and the ordinance that God gave the church. In the nature man with long hair is a shame. But a woman with long hair it is her glory.

People are not always willing to accept what Paul is teaching here. The long hair is the Glory of the woman and not of God. God gave her the hair to cover so she will not be like the one who shave the hair.

Let’s understand carefully the teaching about woman head covering.

The woman hair is her glory  
**The man is the image and glory of God:  
The woman is the glory of the man.**

So when the Church is coming together and the man who is the glory of God teach or pray, the woman should cover her glory which is her hair. Why? **10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.** So the angels will see how this church understand the “headship”

### Contentious

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

We close our study about woman head covering with this important verse. Look around in other commentaries and you will find how people misunderstand this verse.

The verse teaches simple that the Churches of God (the body of Christ) did not have the custom to argue about the ordinances that Paul just thought them.

Before I understood the truth about woman head covering for this dispensation of Grace, I thought too that this is the meaning of this verse. When someone wanted to talk about it or ask me why we, as a grace believer’s do not teach it? My answer was “**we are not arguing about those things**” “**we do not have such a customs**”

So let see what the apostle teach here. It is clear that what ever Paul was teaching the Corinthians, he was teaching also the other churches see 1 Corinthians 4:17.

### Contentious

Here he writes about **contentious** which are arguments or controversy on fundamental truth that Christ gave to the Church through Paul. It is not arguments about words, opinion or who is right and who is wrong. Those who reject that women head covering is part of the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery the same as the truth about one baptism is, are just fighting against Gods word through Paul to the Church.

We can see these kinds of fundamental arguments also in:

Acts 15:1 Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. Acts 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas **had no small dissension and disputation with them**

Acts 23:7-10 And when he had so said, there **arose a dissension** between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided. 23:8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

You see those are not just argument about opinion. Paul stood here for a fundamental truth “**salvation by**

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**grace through faith alone” “resurrection through  
Jesus Christ”**

### Custom

Paul writes about the fact that not he or the churches of God had the custom to argue about this ordinance.

It is very strange on the one hand to read what Paul is writing here and on the other hand to listen or read how other grace believers explain it.

The one write that woman head covering was a custom. Why would Paul write and praise the brethren for keeping these ordinances if it was just a man made Jewish custom. Paul uses the word CUSTOM to talk about the arguments about these ordinances.

Paul or the Churches of God did not have the custom to argue whether they should or should not follow these ordinances. It was for them crystal clear that it was part of the preaching that Paul gave them.

The church lost this truth long time ago like they lost the truth about the one baptism. And so we find our self defending truth that was always part of the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.

Do you still have this custom to argue that **we should not** teach our woman to cover their head when the Church is coming together? We here in Nieuwegein the Netherlands do not have this custom. We invite our fellow believers to take part with us in the lord supper and we ask the woman's to cover the head because we know:

that the head of every man is Christ;  
and the head of the woman is the man;  
and the head of Christ is God

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