

The Truth About Headship

Head Covering and the Dispensation of Grace

By: Dov Avnon

My testimony

I was born in Israel 52 years ago in a Jewish home. When I was 22, I heard the gospel of my salvation through the faith of Jesus Christ, for the first time in my life. It was then that I heard that salvation is by grace through faith alone. At the age of 22 I was saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. I received the gift of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It was a year later, in England, that I heard about the terms "The revelation of the mystery" "The body of Christ" "one baptism" "The dispensation of Grace" and other important subjects, for the first time.

In the beginning, it was hard for me to accept this truth because of my Jewish background and what I had already learnt about God's plan for Israel. Every one, at that time, told me that I was part of the chosen nation but they neglected to explain to me for which purpose God had chosen the nation of Israel.

At the age of 23 I started to listen to what the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven told to the apostle Paul. I began to study the teaching of men of God like C.R. Stam and R. Jordan and others because I learned from the Word that God gave teachers to the Church.

I learned that there is now no difference, in Christ, between Jew and Gentile because it is by one spirit that we were baptized into one body, the Church which is His body.

In the years to come I found my home in the Netherlands with my wife and later our 3 children and a small group of brothers and sisters in the Lord who also took a stand for the Gospel of Grace, rightly divided. Together we established a ministry here, with books and internet and the word of Grace which, till this day, is available to many people.

Dov Avnon

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The churches in Portugal

Some one told me: "I wish you did not visit the churches in Portugal. I wish you did not hear about the truth of the women head covering in the dispensation of Grace of God. I wish that thing will be like it uses to be before, when we had the unity in our small church in Holland!"

Things will never be like they were before you knew any truth. I thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ that He counts me to be a faithful servant and has empowered me to understand the truth about head covering under this dispensation of the grace of God.

1 "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." 1 Corinthians chapter 4

A few years ago, I heard that there are churches in Portugal who understand the truth of the one baptism. It was only in recent years, after I met one of the believers on Skype, that I decided to visit them together with my wife Jeannet. In Lisbon, we met one of the elders

whose name is Carlos. Like always when you meet other Bible teachers, you start talking about all kinds of Biblical truth, and especially those which pertain to the revelation of the mystery.

The churches in Portugal have evolved from a "Brethren background." They remember the Lord's Supper every Sunday and the women in the fellowship cover their heads. We started to talk about it. Personally I am open to talk about every Biblical issue, not that I am interesting in debating but from listening you can always learn something.

This was the first time that I had heard about women's head covering having to do with the headship and the manifestation of the glory of God when the church is coming together.

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."

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. **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." 1 Corinthians chapter 11

So then I heard, understood and believed what God was saying to me in His Word. Of course, there were more questions to be answered, but this was just the beginning of a new understanding concerning this subject. **17** "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17.

I was happy, after all these years, to get the right answer for 1 Corinthians chapter 11: 1-16. What I did not know at that moment was the heavenly warfare which this truth will cause and which was about to come down, especially among those who say that they are following Paul in his teaching.

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." 1 Corinthians chapter 11

Paul & head covering

You probably know and have read many times the words of the apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians chapter 11:1-16**

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. **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. **7** For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of 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. **13** **Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?** **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. **16** **But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."**

Head covering for women under the dispensation of the Grace of God? Yes!

You mean that we should follow Paul also in this ordinance? Yes!

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."**

You mean that we should follow Paul in this ordinance like we follow him in the Lord's Supper? Yes!

You mean that even after the revelation of mystery was fulfilled we still must follow Paul in the **ordinances of women covering their heads and the Lord Supper?** Yes !

25 "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God;" **Colossians chapter 1**

Yes this is exactly what I mean.

I know that it will sound very strange to hear that there are people who teach head covering as a part of the revelation of the mystery which was given to Paul.

Why does it sound strange while in the same chapter Paul teaches about the Lord's Supper?

Why does it sound strange while we are teaching that there is only one baptism for many people?

Ordinances

Question: "Why are you making so big issue from the Words of Christ to Paul about head covering?"

Well, of course if Christ told this to Paul and Paul said: **1 "Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ"** I want to be faithful to the Word also in this matter, as in any other. But there is something more. We are not speaking about just a command but about ORDINANCES.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:2 "Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, **and keep the ordinances**, as I delivered [them] to you."

So head covering and the Lord's Supper are ordinances for the church of the mystery, the Church of which we are members.

When I teach that we should follow Paul in those ordinances as he follows Christ, (1 Corinthians 11:1-16,) people look at me as if I am teaching something new, which is not new at all, in terms of Biblical revelation.

It is strange to see that whenever I mention head covering or the Lord's Supper, people begin quoting scriptures from Paul's prison letters (by the way, I used to do the same) in an attempt to show an alternative argument.

When I think it now over, it looks very strange to use the words of the same apostle in one letter against his words in other letters only because it is believed that there is a so-called "transition period" theory.

EPHESIANS 2:15 "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, [even] the law of

commandments [contained] in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, [so] making peace;"

It is important that we do not confuse the ordinances of the Law of Moses with those that the Lord gave to Paul for the dispensation of the grace of God. So when I teach 1 Corinthians chapter 11 for us today, I do not mean to put us back under the Law.

COLOSSIANS 2:14 "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;"

COLOSSIANS 2:20 "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,"

Look at what a difference there is between the ordinances that were against us and the ordinances that Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians chapter 11. Can we understand the difference? We should not build a doctrine on words but rather attempt to understand the context in which the Scripture was written. So when Paul's writing tells us "Be **ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ** " he simply means the ordinances for the dispensation of the grace of God, not the mandatory ordinances of the Law of Moses.

Are you still considering yourself as someone who **Proves all things; holding fast that which is good?** Even if it is many years since you heard about the truth of the mystery and decided then to stand for the truth of the one baptism?

Are you still that Bible believer, teacher or preacher with that same spirit of faith that led you to understand the revelation of the mystery for the first time?

If you are, and your heart is still open to believe the truth as it is written, then please stay with me. Let's go together on a scriptural journey that in the end I hope you will understand why we, as a grace believers, should follow Paul in what he has written in **1 Corinthians chapter 11:1-16**

In this journey we will go through the subject itself but also understand the full position that the letter to the Corinthians has in the revelation of the mystery which was given to Paul. We will also go back to the book of Acts in order to understand the difference between the apostle and prophets from Jerusalem and the apostle and prophets of the dispensation of the Grace of God.

In order to understand why women's head covering is still a part of the revelation of the mystery, we will need to search the Word of God as to whether the so called "transition period theory" stands the test of the scripture and the word rightly divided.

I assure you we going to have blessed time.

In Christ our Lord

Dov Avnon

Who needs head covering?

If you put the question in this way, you will find that no one is really waiting to hear this doctrine from Paul. The women will start to rebel and the men will find it hard to take position. Only those in the church who will take God at His word and just believe in what is written will find the light and the power to obey this doctrine. Others will fall into a kind of spiritual blindness and whenever you will try to show them things from the Word you will mostly hear "I do not see it, I do not see it"

Yes, people will find it hard to accept, and I am talking mainly about the so-called grace believers, because they are the ones who mostly mention what Paul says: **1 "Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ." 1 Corinthians chapter 11.**

So if you really do consider yourself as a faithful follower of Paul, you should take God in His word and obey His ordinances as it is written in **1 Corinthians chapter 11:1-16**

The question is still "who needs head covering?" The answer is, not many people! Who needs the doctrine of the one baptism? Also not many! Both doctrines are fundamental and rejected by the majority of believers. The doctrine of head covering is part of the revelation of the mystery given to Paul and yet has never been accepted in the so-called "grace movement!" Why not?

Throughout the years that I have been teaching the grace message, I came across the question about women's head covering in the dispensation of the Grace of God quite a few times. When I was in my homeland, Israel, I visited a fellowship where most of the women were covering their heads. However, because they were not teaching the word rightly divided in that fellowship, I thought that women's head covering was not for us.

In another situation I had the privilege to meet a brother who eventually spent 10 years with us and helped me in spreading the Gospel of Grace in Holland. His wife used to cover her head all day long. They learnt the grace message after years of being a part of a close religious group in Germany. I remember that he used to ask me about it but the most that I knew at that time was: "Long hair is the covering" or changing the following scripture like most people do:

16 "But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." 1 Corinthians chapter 11

In other words, I did not argue about it and just welcomed his wife with her head covering in our fellowship but at that time in my life I did not have a real understanding of the subject. Some people will always say "**it is, after all, not so important so let move on to the real gospel**" so this is what I did for years - probably like most people will do if you do not have the right light in the Word of God.

Are we ready to follow the truth?

I want to assure you that while I am writing this study about 1 Corinthians 11: 1-16, I am not trying to convince you that you should follow any other any teaching other than the gospel of God's grace. As you may already know, there are several groups in the so-called Christianity that teach women's head covering, but they do not understand Paul's distinctive ministry. So what I am now writing is especially for those who do understand that the Lord Jesus Christ from Heaven gave Paul the revelation of the mystery.

"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, 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: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen." Romans 16:25,26

In this study I will do my best to share with you some light in the Word of God that we received after we came to understand the truth of 1 Corinthians chapter 11:1-16.

When you accept that we should keep the ordinances, as Paul delivered us in 1 Corinthians chapter 11, you are facing a truth which is not easy to obey! You will probably have to do some rethinking concerning other issues like the so called "transition period" theory. On the other hand, you will get some answers or new light on the position of the letter to the Corinthians as part of Paul's letters to the Church, which is His body. You will probably also begin to understand the difference in message between the Apostles and prophets from Jerusalem and those of the body of Christ, the dispensation of God's grace and maybe even more. So please stay with me.

I believe that we should give very careful thought about this issue. We are using the unscriptural term "transition time" in a very loose manner, in order to give prospective answers to scriptural issues. Satan attacks the believers who understand grace in different ways. We are divided on the issues of the Lord's Supper. We are divided on the issue concerning Paul's early ministry and on many other issues.

The purpose of this study is to share some new light in order to help you and establish you in understanding the revelation of the mystery, which was given to Paul.

Other questions also arise concerning Paul's ministry. I will deal with these in the chapter, which I will call "The Apostles and Prophets of the dispensation of the grace of God. (The transition period theory: Truth or error?)

The Position of the Letter to the Corinthians.

In order to understand how important Paul 's command is, to follow him in the ordinances of 1 Corinthians chapter 11, we must first understand the full position of this letter. It is common to teach that the letter was written in the Acts period. That in the letter Paul did not know every thing. That the letter was written to a church that started near to a Jewish synagogue etc.

1 "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, 2 **Unto the church of God which is at Corinth**, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:" 1 Corinthians chapter 1

13 "For by one Spirit are **we all baptized into one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." 1 Corinthians chapter 12

So, the letter was written to the church of God which is at Corinth to those who were baptized in to one body which is the church that was kept secret and was first revealed to the Apostle Paul. 7 "**But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:**" 1 Corinthians chapter 2

But was that church near a synagogue? Well, this is very strange argument to suggest that Paul, on the one hand, received the truth of 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 directly from the Lord and on the other hand to say that in some way it has to do with the Jewish tradition or religion.

So let's see it in the light of the word of God.

Paul began by first visiting the synagogue of unbelieving Jews; Jews who did not accept Christ as their Messiah. He did not go to the synagogue because he was preaching the kingdom on earth but: **"...It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles."** Acts chapter 13:46

HEAD COVERING

So is the truth about Head covering as it is written in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 part of Jewish tradition? No! As far that we know from the Law of Moses, there is only one scripture that might suggest that women used to cover the heads. **18 "And the priest shall set the woman before the LORD, and uncover the woman's head, and put the offering of memorial in her hands, which is the jealousy offering: and the priest shall have in his hand the bitter water that causeth the curse:"** NUMBERS 5:18

It will surely be contrary to the Word of God if we say that this ordinance was because of their Jewish background. The Apostle Paul himself says: **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."** 1 Corinthians chapter 11

So, on what ground is the basis of the theory that the doctrine of head covering is part of the Jewish tradition, while the Word of God says that it was part of the revelation of the mystery which was given to the apostle Paul? It is Paul, in his letter, who for the first time revealed to the world the real purpose of head covering.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Some suggest that the so-called Lord 's Supper is also part of Jewish tradition and therefore we should not remember it.

This is very strange statement and so we must first fully understand that the nation of Israel had to believe and act according to the Law of Moses.

25 "And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service. 26 And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? 27 That ye shall say, *It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses.* And the people bowed the head and worshipped. 28 And the children of Israel went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they." Exodus chapter 12

But the Apostle Paul did not write to the members of the body of Christ to remember the **LORD'S Passover**.

When the Lord Jesus Christ was on earth he was introducing something new which was not part of the law which God gave to Moses.

26 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this *is my blood of the new testament*, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matthew chapter 26

So let us first look at what the apostle Paul says about how he received this ordinance:

23 "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:" 1 Corinthians chapter 11

We can see once again from the word of God that Paul was teaching the churches these ordinances, not because of their Jewish nature but because they are a part of the revelation of the mystery for this dispensation of the Grace of God.

The letter to the Corinthians is a very fundamental letter that deals, among other things, with the fellowship of the believers., i.e. "why we are coming together as a church and how." There is nothing in Corinthians, which has to do with the so-called "transition period" theory, but rather, with the full knowledge of the mystery which was given to Paul. In order to understand this, I invite you to follow my study "The apostle and prophets of the dispensation of the Grace of God."

There are so-called "grace believers" today who are questioning the truth of the Lord's Supper. Some do it once a year, others every month and others do not teach it at all. So the question is "in how far do those brethren still follow Paul? It seems to me that many grace believers do not really have light on those important ordinances that Paul talks about in his letters to the Corinthians and are just following what others say, or ignoring the subject altogether.

The letter to the Corinthians is fully a part of the revelation of the mystery. **"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory"** 1 Corinthians 2:7

Paul mentions in the letter to the Corinthians that he knew things "in part" but you still will find all the truth of the mystery there. Most important is to understand the following verse:

"For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. **Wherefore I beseech you,** be ye followers of me."

"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 4:15-17

Some people say that Paul was teaching the truth of the 1 Corinthians chapter 11 head-covering and the Lord's Supper only to the Corinthian church at a certain time in Biblical history.

But this scripture teaches us that Timothy knew what Paul was teaching in every church and later Paul wrote to him to exhort him to teach others. 2 Timothy 2:2 and Timothy thus follows Paul's teaching.

Dear reader, are you still following Paul in the ordinances that he received from the Lord Jesus Christ for this dispensation of Gods grace?

Transition period

Acts is the book of transition between the dispensations of law and grace.

Acts is the book of transition between the Church and Israel.

I am sure you have heard many time about how preachers are giving out the line to the book of Acts.

I am sure that you heard about this term “the transition period” and whenever people find some difficult issues in Paul's letters it is very easy to say **“yes but it is because of the transition period.”**

Since we are doing some rethinking about in how far we can use this term after Paul was saved we will discover the following fact:

1 – The stoning of Stephen and the conversion of Paul on the road to Damascus shows us the turning point in God's program.

2 - The work of the 12 apostles, preaching to Israel, the things that Christ told them regarding the Kingdom, later stopped.

3 - While there are now no more 12 apostles. There are now 3 main apostles and Prophets from Jerusalem. Who are going to remain preaching the gospel of the circumcision.

"And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision" Galation 2:9

4 – When we arrive at the period that is covered by the letters of Paul, Galatians is the first epistle and Second Timothy is the last one. There is only ONE gospel. The gospel of the Grace of God as it is being taught in all of the churches by the Apostle Paul..

5 – During the period that is covered by the book of Acts; from the moment that the church in Jerusalem was scattered, the Apostles and prophets from Jerusalem were teaching the gospel of the circumcision which we can learn more about, in the letters from the Hebrew till Revelation.

“And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.” Acts 8:1

6 – The main distinction in the book of Acts should be seen as being between the works of the apostle and prophets from Jerusalem and the works of the apostle and prophets of the dispensation of the Grace of God.

"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." Galatians 1:11,12

"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, 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: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen." Romans 16:25-26

7 – Paul is the apostle for this dispensation of the Grace of God and if we want to understand his whole message, including what he taught the churches in his letters to the Corinthians, we should follow the word of the apostles and prophets of the dispensation of the Grace of God.

"And are built upon **the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;" Ephesians 2:20

"Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is **now revealed unto**

his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel" Ephesians 3:5-6

"And he gave some, **apostles; and some, prophets**; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers" Ephesians 4:11

Dear reader, we read 5 times in the book of Acts that Paul went to the synagogue of the Jewish people. We believe and trust the word of God in that while Paul was preaching to his brethren in the flesh, it did not negatively impact or cause his disobedience to the revelation that he received from the Lord.

So we can now understand why we do not need "transition period" theory in order to understand or explain what Christ is teaching us in the letter to the Corinthians, through Paul, but to just take God at His Word and to follow Paul because he follows Christ,

(more about the Acts period – in the next study (The apostles and Prophets of the dispensation of God's grace)

The Truth about Head covering

When Paul is writing about the truth of head covering he does not write about culture costume or Jewish tradition. He tells us some truth which is part of the direct revelation that he received from the Lord Jesus from heaven.

"And the priest shall set the woman before the LORD, and uncover the woman's head, and put the offering of memorial in her hands, which is the jealousy offering: and the priest shall have in his hand the bitter water that causeth the curse" Numbers 5:18

This is the only scripture in the Law of Moses that might suggest that women covered their heads. Even Jewish tradition, which teaches that married women should walk with their heads covered, cannot find much support for it in the Law of Moses. So likewise, we will not find much written about women's head covering in the 4 gospels like what the Lord Jesus Christ Him self revealed to Paul as part of the revelation of the mystery.

After I came to understand the truth of head covering I realized that even the Muslim religion took something in a bad way from the Bible. There are internet Muslim sites in the Netherlands where Muslim women are arguing by using Paul's words to show so-called Christian women that the Muslim way is the right way. Only that they forgot that the Bible teaches that the man should not cover his head while the IMAM covers his head like the catholic archbishop.

What about all the so-called grace preachers? Why are they not willing to follow Paul in this truth as he follow Christ? From reading C.R. Stam's book about the letter to the Corinthians and other writers, we can see how these men did not have the answer. The one is writing about the "Long hair" as the true covering and the other says "it is just costume" and not more. Others teach that it was when the women in the Church were professing without understanding the basic truth that women were NOT allowed to speak, just as Paul wrote and that the gift of prophesy was given ONLY to men.

How is it that we have such clear understanding about the truth of the "one baptism," "one body" and the "one hope" of Ephesians 4:1-6 and yet we are not able to understand this truth, in which Paul is spending all of this chapter talking about head covering, the Lord's Supper and coming together??? 1 Corinthians chapter 11.

If you really want to understand the truth about head covering I can only suggest and pray that

you will take God at His word like you do when you teach about the one baptism or other truths from the letters of Paul. Read what is written and believe what is written and you will have what is written.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”. Romans 10:17

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

I think that you have read the above verse many times and that you have been using it to show people how important it is to follow Paul's message of Grace because he follows Christ. If you will read carefully through, you will find that Paul asks the believers to follow him in those ordinances that we going to speak about.

Through his first letter to the Corinthians, we read that Paul had to defend his apostleship and gospel, several times. The question is "why?" The answer is because those ordinances and other truths that he teaches to all the church at that time were NOT a part of the kingdom gospel. He did not tell them things that he still had from the Jewish tradition. What Paul was proclaiming was the full gospel of the grace of God by the authority of Christ. Paul was teaching head covering and the Lord's Supper as a part of the distinct revelation that he received from the Lord from heaven. So if we really want to understand these truths we should go first to Paul's letters.

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

So being followers of Paul in this case is preaching and teaching head covering and the Lord's Supper under this present dispensation of Grace.

As you read 1 Corinthians chapter 11 you will understand that there are grace preachers who do follow Paul's teaching in general. But as you arrive at those two important ordinances you will find all kinds of explanation but NOT always according to the truth that Paul was teaching.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" 2 Corinthians chapter 5:7

I found that those who are against the teaching of head covering and the Lord's Supper for this dispensation of grace will often use this verse. So not only are they taking the scripture out of context but they also do not accept Paul's authority in this matter when he commands the believers to follow him as he follows Christ. Remember! Head covering and the Lord's Supper during the time when the church is coming together have nothing to do with SIGHT. It is ordinances that we should follow by the grace of God.

"Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you."

Paul is praising the Brethren. We will see later how important is the fact that men in the church should be strong in the Grace teaching. The truth about head covering and the Lord's Supper was also hard to follow in Paul's day. Women then and now are not waiting for someone to teach them to cover their head. The Lord's Supper means not only the unity that we have in one body but also the obligation that we have to judge ourselves.

So just look around and you will find how churches today are operating more and more by the will of the women and not of the men, as Paul is teaching us as it should be.

Paul praises those brethren who did follow his teaching and did keep those ordinances. The problem in those churches was about the truth of the creation of man and woman.

Some people think that those are so-called Jewish issues. But this is not true. Jewish people were, at that time, the witnesses of Moses Act 15:21 **"For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath day."** They understood what happened concerning the creation of man and women, and who was first.

It was those of the Gentile women who started to speak in the church without covering their heads that caused the problem. Women in the Greek temple could be a priest, but after she accepted the grace of God and what Paul was teaching, she had to be silent in the church. Paul spoke to many Greek women. Acts 17:12 **"Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few."**

Acts 14: 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."

So when there are problems in the churches concerning the truth of head covering and the Lord's Supper, it is a good test for the brethren to see how far they are really established in Paul teaching.

The Headship

11:3 **"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."**

The first point is that we should KNOW this truth. Like in other places, Paul put the emphasis on first to know. What he was preaching was new, so they had first to know it. This why he also sent Timothy 1 Corinthians. 4:17. You will not find this truth in the law of Moses or in the four gospels accounts because it is part of the special revelation that Paul received from the Lord.

In our days of women's liberation, just as in Paul's day, the problem and the truth remain the same. The brethren should know well the following issue.

- 1- The head of every man is Christ;
- 2- The head of the woman is the man;
- 3 -and the head of Christ is God.

If you keep this truth in the church and in your preaching you will run out of problems. So when we teach that women should cover their heads when the church is coming together, it is because of this order in creation. The only serious question is as to why we are unable to accept it just by faith. Why is it so difficult, especially for women, to obey Paul and for the men to take their position within the assembled church?

The following explains to us why people were questioning Paul position down through all generations. Christ revealed to us, through Paul, another purpose of the creation which was not known before. GOD, CHRIST, MAN, WOMAN. This is the order.

This puts every one in their right place before God. The man knows now who is his head and so the woman knows too. If you compare this precept with church history, or religion in general, you will find how far people have departed from this fundamental truth. We are talking about a man as the head of a certain church, about women who refuse to accept the authority of a man and, of course, about men who are too weak to take position within the assembly of God's people.

The Prophecy Man

11:4 "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head."

Paul writes us how this ordinance is manifested when the church is coming together. It is a very simple manifestation. Man without head covering, women with.

Some people suggest that Paul meant only when the Church still had the gift of prophesy. But the man **is not covering** his head because he is a prophet but because he is a MAN that is prophesying or praying. So also today, during this time when we do not have any more prophets or the gift of prophesy. The man should not cover his head when the church is coming together and there is a teaching or praying.

So then, if it is clear that men should pray or prophesy without head covering, then why is it so difficult to accept that the women should have head covering?

"dishonoureth his head" - the head of every man is Christ; so the man shows that he honours Christ by NOT covering his head.

We only read about a man who had his head covered in the law of Moses.

"And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, even upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the LORD commanded Moses." Leviticus 8:9

Now we can understand that when religious leaders are covering their head that they are putting themselves equal to God. They are not following what Christ revealed to Paul for this dispensation of Grace.

But there is here another important issue . **"Every man praying or prophesying."** Who is this man that is prophesying in the churches that Paul established? Prophesying means to speak for God, but there was also the gift of prophesy. We have to understand that we speak about the gift of prophesy in the dispensation of the Grace of God. When Paul writes about it, he was already teaching the revelation of the mystery in all the churches (1 Corinthians 4:17)

We arrive in confusion at the moment that we do not rightly divided the word of truth and I intend to make distinction between the work and message of the apostles and prophets from Jerusalem and the Apostle and prophets of the dispensation of God's grace.

So when we speak about a man that prophesying in the church that Paul established, we are not necessarily speaking about a Jew, but about the real revelation of the mystery.

Let's look in to the following verses:

"Now to him that is of power to establish 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, **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

Scriptures of the Prophets

We know, understand and believe that no one from the old testament prophets, such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel or any other, knew anything about God's purpose for the present

church, the body of Christ. You may ask "how do I know?" The answer is very simple: by just taking God at His word through the apostle Paul. From reading in Romans 16:25 we know "that preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery" kept secret since the world began.

The Apostle then continues and tells us BUT NOW which is the same NOW for **ROMANS 3:21 "but now"** the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets" **EPHESIANS 2:13 "but now** in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

But now – is the time period from when Paul started to preach the grace message. I am not going into this in this article, but I hope that you too believe that there is only ONE "BUT NOW" and not two.

So now we understand that in Romans 16:25-26 Paul tell us about the dispensation of God's grace that was made manifest, "**and by the scriptures of the prophets.**"

It is Paul who says: **9** "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part." 1 Corinthians chapter 13

The question then is "what are the **scriptures of the prophets?**" If we study the book of Acts, we will understand that there is a major distinction through ALL the book between the work of the apostle and prophets from Jerusalem and the Apostle and prophets of the dispensation of Gods grace. This why Paul writes:

20 "And are built upon the foundation of the **apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*" **Ephesians chapter 2**

5 "Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy **apostles and prophets** by the Spirit" **Ephesians chapter 3**

For the obedience of faith

5 "By whom we have received grace and **apostleship**, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name"

It is Paul and those who were with him that received the apostleship to go to all nations with the gospel of God's grace. It is through **the scriptures of those prophets** that people came to understand the revelation of the mystery. So while there is a difference in gospels between what Peter, James, John the apostles from Jerusalem were teaching and what Paul and the Apostles and Prophets of the dispensation of Grace were teaching, there is only one gospel for this time of grace which we find in Paul's letters from Romans through Philemon. When we understand this important difference, we will be able to place the letters to the Hebrews through the book of Revelation into the right time and for the right people, as we understand that in those letters we cannot find the same message as we find in the scripture of the prophets who wrote about the revelation of the mystery.

Christ revealed the mystery to Paul. He was Apostle with prophets working with him to spread the word of Grace in all the churches. This truth we can find only in **scriptures of the prophets** of the dispensation of God's grace (Paul letters from Romans to Philemon)

"made known to all nations for the obedience of faith" Remember this purpose of God, like Paul writes here, is NOT part of the message that Christ gave to the 12 apostles when he was on earth and also NOT part of the gospel to the circumcision that PETER, JAMES and John were to later proclaim (see Hebrews – Revelation)

The man who is prophesying in the Churches that Paul established is prophesying about the revelation of the mystery. Instead of trying to find the answers in so-called TRANSITION theory, we would be wiser to go back to the word of God and especially the letters of the Apostle Paul.

1 Corinthians 12:028 "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."

So, we need to remember that the church of the mystery also had apostles and prophets. Those men (remember, only men) were instructed to teach NO other doctrine than what Paul told them and they were teaching in every Church.

So, men had to pray or prophesy with UNCOVERED heads - not because it was "costume" or because of any transition theory. No - it is because Christ revealed this to Paul. **"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."**

The prophesying woman

11:5 "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."

Most people will find it normal that a man who speaks, when the church is coming together, does not cover his head.

What about the women? Why does Paul mention the woman **"that prayeth or prophesieth?"**

Was there a period in the dispensation of Grace of God that God used **women to prophesy** when the church came together?

I know that for most so-called "grace believers" this question is even not an issue. They will probably say "it was, then, during Paul's early ministry" but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail... 1 Corinthians chapter 13:8.

First of all, there is no scripture that will support the concept that Paul had an "early or late ministry." Those are just so-called theological terms or drawn conclusions and they should never take the place of the written Word of God. The Lord chose Paul for one ministry, for one gospel that he revealed to his **holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit!**

1 "For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, 2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to youward:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel" Ephesians chapter 3

I took the time to write this study because I wanted to discuss the woman who **prayeth or prophesies**. She is like us, living under the dispensation of the grace of God and, as I understand, was part of a church that Paul established.

The most important question is:

Did God use those women as a part of his revelation of the mystery to his **holy apostles and**

prophets by the Spirit ? The answer is NO NO NO !

Was the woman who **prayeth or prophesieth** one of the **prophets by the Spirit** ? NO NO NO !

When Paul says : 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 chapter 12** - Are those **prophesying** woman part of those "**secondarily prophets**" NO NO NO !

You know why not? Those woman could not and should not be among the prophets that God used "to make **all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ?**" The answer is very simple because she is a woman. And Paul writes very clearly:

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." 1 Corinthians chapter 14

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." 1 Timothy chapter 2

Paul mention here something that he was teaching in every church **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."**

So how could this woman prophesying in the church be by the will of God concerning the revelation of the mystery, while she was instructed to be silent?

WHO IS THIS WOMAN?

Those who are against woman covering their heads under the dispensation of Grace often suggest that those prophesying women were the daughters from Joel's prophecy.

17 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons **and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams" Acts 2:17**

Or

Acts 21:8 "And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. 9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, **which did prophesy.**"

This is a very strange explanation, especially if it comes from those who understand the meaning of rightly dividing the Word of truth. Joel's prophecy talks about the last days of God's earthly program. What kind of message should those daughters suppose to bring to the churches of the dispensation of Grace where Paul was teaching the mystery? especially if a woman under this time of grace should be silent when the church is gathering and they are not allowed to teach the men.

What about the daughters of Philip the evangelist? Was Philip an evangelist with the gospel of God's grace with the revelation of the mystery? (See Ephesians chapter 4:11) and what about

his daughters? Were they prophesying as a part of the gift of prophesy that God gave to the body of Christ? No!

But let us first understand some basic facts concerning women prophesying in the Bible and the gift of prophesy under the dispensation of God's grace.

The first question is what is prophesying? It means to reveal by divine inspiration or to reveal the will or message of God. Those who were prophesying were not necessarily the appointed prophet themselves.

The apostle Paul wrote: 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.**"

"...and he shall rule over thee." Genesis 3:16

16 "These *are* the statutes, which the LORD commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, between the father and his daughter," Numbers chapter 30

So how was it during the Law period? Was the woman at that time allowed to have authority over the man? We ask this, because some people will come up with the case of **JUDGES 4:4 "And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time."**

If we study carefully, we will find that the service of the law was in the hands of men and not of women.

The question is "Did women ever have the gift of prophesy in the church?"

Other important questions are about which Church the prophet Joel is speaking about? And to which Church is Paul writing?

We know that there is a difference between the Church of the mystery "the body of Christ" and the kingdom church or the churches of the circumcision.

But the question is WHAT IS PROPHECY?

Did God ever reveal his will or plan through women?

Prophesy means speaking for God, and there are examples of women who did it

20 "And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances." Exodus chapter 15

14 "So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto **Huldah the prophetess**, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college;) and they communed with her." 2 Kings chapter 22

14 "My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the **prophetess Noadiah**, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear." Nehemiah chapter 6

20 "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that **woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess**, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." Revelation chapter 2

4 "And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time." Judges chapter 4

36 "And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity" Luke chapter 2

9 "And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy." Acts chapter 21

Let us not be confused between those women who incidentally talk for God and the gift of prophesy that the church, the body of Christ, received from the Lord as Paul writes to us in his letters.

Dear reader, it is wrong to teach that God gave women in the Church, the body of Christ, the gift of prophesy! It is against the spirit of the word!

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." 1 Corinthians chapter 14

How was it during the LAW period? Is there any evidence that at that time woman could have authority over the man? Most people take Deborah, a prophetess as an example, while if we will read the context of that chapter (Judges chapter 4) we will understand why God was using her.

It is clear from the written law that God used MEN in order to spread his LAWS and REVELATIONS.

16 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone. Numbers chapter 11

9 "And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel." Deuteronomy chapter 31

So we need to remember that those MEN were the elders of Israel, which God used to spread His word, and not women. Similarly as Paul writes to the Church many years later through the authority of God:

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." 1 Corinthians ch 14

Do am I keeping the ordinance?

“The truth about women head covering “

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 this 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's 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” does not accept the ordinance of women's head covering in their teaching, while they do accept the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. Why is that? Because for some it is just a custom while others think that it has to do with the Acts period or that the long hair is the covering.

For years I was also teaching that the Lord's Supper is part of the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery and about women's 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 God's grace for this dispensation of Grace.

Dov Avnon – Nieuwegein The Netherlands

2010

So what is it 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 an old Jewish custom.

Besides 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 a 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 in their decision of not to follow Paul in those ordinances is **"It was for THEN and not for NOW."** They call it Paul's early ministry - as if Paul received from the Lord two ministries - and they then offer the following scripture to justify their way of belief.

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 as to whether we should or should not follow Paul in this ordinance in the word THEN of 1 Corinthians 13:9-12. Because women's 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, we need 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. They were 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 an end a long time ago and as far as I can say, were in operation only during the time of Paul's life and ministry.

The Lord's Supper and the truth about women's 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 to 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 over the years since then, it has been changed. The catholic church uses the term "the Lord's Supper" but it is far from what Paul was teaching in his letter. Also the truth about women's head covering was not kept as it should have been and those who are teaching it do not appear to know much about the dispensation of Grace of God.

Generally speaking, women are not always waiting to cover their heads and so Paul called on 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 for us to understand what Paul wants us to know. What is the reason why he writes these things to 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 Paul wrote about **women's 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."

These 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 spoke about the man and woman who are **praying or prophesying** and not only **prophesying**.

Please note that whenever we start to mention the teaching of women's head covering, those who reject it from the beginning are **fixated** only on verses 4,5. While Paul goes further in explaining what is all about.

I think that most people accept that men in the church **should not cover their heads**. Just think: who are those who do cover their heads? Catholic leader, Muslim leader, Jews! Have you ever thought why?.....

From reading further than just verses 4,5, we will learn that the Apostle Paul had more in mind, when he was writing about this important ordinance. Paul is teaching us why the 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 verse 3

If the woman uncovered her head she **dishonoureth her head**: which is the man according to verse 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 someone who speaks for God. It has to do with a gift. I believe that this gift of prophesy was temporary during 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 us 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 emphasize 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 Prophecies

5 "But every woman that prayeth or prophecies 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 woman could prophesy when the church came together? The answer is no!

I will start with the fact that the above gifts were given only to men. 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 of the gift of prophecy but because of the headship. (verse 3) Paul made comparison between man and woman in those two verses.

I always say to people: "read 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 and you will understand that Paul is not writing about these ordinances for the **prophesying** women because in another scripture he says "**Let your women keep silence in the churches.**"

There are always those who ask "but who are those women that Paul is talking about? Let's not forget that many women 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, there were probably women who were not silent in the church and who spoke with uncovered heads. Others who do not rightly divided the word in this matter and who are 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 prophecy 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 prophecy but because of 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

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."

As I already mentioned, that if you read through what the apostle Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 and you will understand the context.

"if the woman be not covered" – What is it that 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 is about the women covering her glory -THE HAIR.

If a woman's hair is not covered when the church is coming together, it is the same shame like as if the woman has **shorn or shaven** her hair.

It is her glory the hair that should be covered. Why? Not because she is used to **prophecy**, 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 of 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 Timothy. 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 ASHAMED to do all kind of things. They are not ashamed any more to go to church wearing very worldly dress, Or to dress themselves during the week in a very worldly manner. The question is WHY?

Shame is a violation values – if people are not teaching those values any more there is no shame. I speak of values according to the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.

It is strange to hear from people who seem to be educated grace believers, after they have heard what we are teaching about women's head covering, with their 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 women's head covering is never mention in the law that God gave to Moses. It is mentioned for the first time in the revelation that Christ gave to Paul for the Church, which is His body.

When we understand that women's head covering is a part of the message of grace, then we are able to 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 a **shaven head** because God gave her the hair as a glory. The same is with head covering. I will emphasize it again. We need to teach "**What is shame**" before we speak about shame. In the world of today women are dressing or doing their hair according what man calls "**fashion**" and not according to how Paul is teaching us in his letters.

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

So what is the problem here, that people have a problem with this principle? **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 far 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.

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. This is a teaching of what Paul 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

I must say that I knew verse 7 for a 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 emphasises 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 wrote to the church in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 that this is about this difference between man and women. If we look around we can see how the so-called women's liberation movement is fighting against the rule of creation. The Church also went to follow during the years after that liberation movement. So today, it appears to be very strange for people, when they hear that a woman should cover her 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 to the main reason why Paul is teaching about women's head covering. Like I said before it is not about a 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 Timothy. 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness.... seen of angels"

Eph. 3:10 "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 "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 just speaking about a meaningless covering of the head. It is a power. By doing so, it is the woman's 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 Timothy. 3:16 "seen of angels" ... or that Paul is 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 writes: "**the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.**"

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 people think that the truth about women's head covering has to do with submission. They are listening more to what the religious world says and not to what Paul is teaching.

Man and women in Christ are the basis for a great unity. Paul uses this relationship when he compares 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 difference 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 difference, 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 women's head covering, I thought it had to do with verses 4,5 "**But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth.**" People are speaking mostly about the woman who **prophesieth** and they forget that the verse is speaking about "**prayeth or prophesieth.**"

After we see 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**" (verse 4,5)

2 - "**because of the angels**" (verse 10)

3 - "**pray unto God uncovered**" (verse 13)

"**Judge in yourselves**" - 1 Corinthians chapters 10-11 teaches us that the believer should judge himself through the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and head covering. It is not judgment 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.

The Lord's Supper is not a religious 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, explicitly, 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 the woman should cover her head when the church is coming together is an ordinance that Christ gave to Paul for this dispensation of Grace. This is 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 herself "**is it comely?**" Am I pleasing 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 as to what Paul is teaching us.

First of all, it is man-made, that we say that only men 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 definitely, woman should pray too when the man is praying. Even some of the songs that we are 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 women 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 Corinthian 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"** we then find that Paul was not talking about the woman's hair at all.

Paul is comparing here between nature and the ordinance that God gave the church. In the natural realm, a man with long hair is a shame, but for 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 shaves her hair.

Let's understand carefully the teaching about women's head covering.

The woman's 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, teaches or prays, 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 understands 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 women's head covering with this important verse. Look around in other commentaries and you will find how people misunderstand this verse.

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

Before I understood the truth about women's head covering for this dispensation of Grace, I also thought that this is the meaning of this verse. When someone wanted to talk about it or ask me why we, as a grace believers do not teach it? My answer was **“we do not argue about those things, as we do not have such a custom”**

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

Contentions

Here he writes about **contentions**, which are arguments or controversy on fundamental truths that Christ gave to the Church through Paul. It is not arguments about words, opinions or who is right or wrong. Those who reject that women's head covering is part of the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery, along similar lines as the truth about the one baptism, 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, these are not just arguments about opinion. Paul stood up here for a fundamental truth **“salvation by 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 on how other grace believers explain it.

The one writes that women's 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. For them, it was crystal clear that it was part of the preaching that Paul gave them.

The church lost this truth a long time ago, like they lost the truth about the one baptism. And so we find ourselves defending a truth that was always a 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 women to cover their heads when the Church is coming together? We here in Nieuwegein, the Netherlands do not have this custom of arguing. We invite our fellow believers to take part with us in the Lord's Supper and we ask the women to cover their heads 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