

# God's Created Order in Worship: Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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**Key Truth:** Our conduct and appearance in gathered worship must represent a true submission to God and His created order.

At first glance, this passage doesn't seem very applicable to us today: head coverings, although, you might be surprised at how much this custom is actually practiced in America among Christians. Yet for us, the custom seems rather foreign. What, then, can we learn from this teaching by Paul? Even though our styles of dress may change from generation to generation, the meaning behind our conduct and appearance remains the same.

## DISCUSS

Read **1 Corinthians 11:2-16** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on **God's Created Order**.

## DIG IN

**1. Headship and Submission speak of God's created order.** (vv. 2-3)

Notice the three-fold structure of God's created order (v. 3):

- 1) All of mankind submits to Christ ("every man").
- 2) Wife submits to husband.
- 3) Christ submits to God.

In what ways does this help human beings thrive and flourish? How might breaking this order explain many of the issues our world experiences today?

**2. Our conduct and appearance Symbolize God's created order.**

(vv. 4-16)

A. Divine Glory (appeal to Theology): (vv. 4-7)

In what ways do men and women dishonor their "heads" differently (vv. 4-5)?

In what ways do men and women glorify God differently (v. 7)?

B. Created Authority (appeal to Creation): (vv. 8-10)

Why is the order of creation an important indicator of God's will for headship (see Colossians 1:15-18)? In what ways does this inform your interpretation of verse 10?

C. Mutual Dependency (appeal to Creation): (vv. 11-12)

In what ways are men and women interdependent (vv. 11-12)? Why is this important?

D. Human Dignity (appeal to Nature): (vv. 13-15)

In what ways do men and women "disgrace" (v. 14) themselves today?

In verse 16, Paul instructs the Corinthians not to be contentious about these issues. Why is it important that we live in peace according to God's created order?

## DO

In what ways will you put what you've learned into practice this week?