

# THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S COVERING

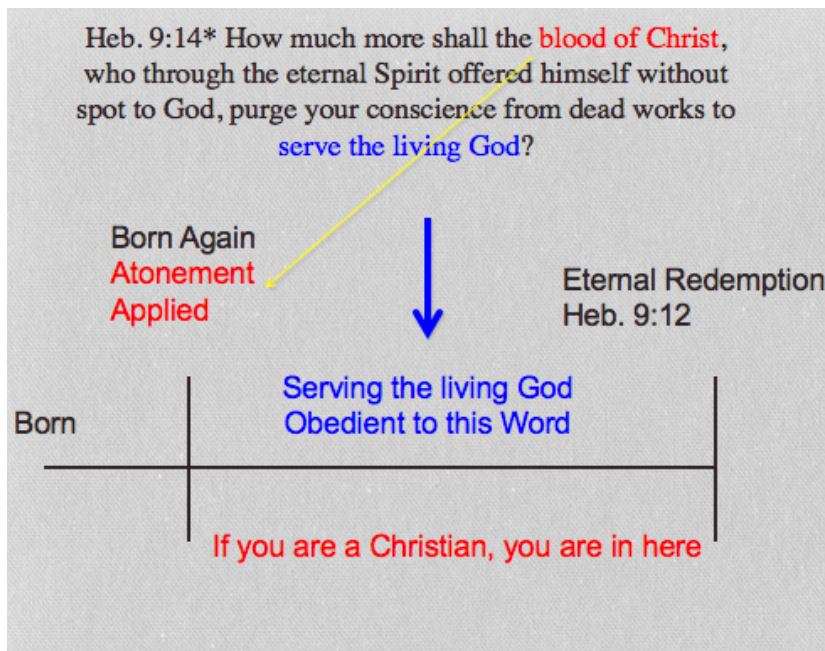
Introduction: It is helpful that we understand some dynamics of the subject of the Christian woman's head covering. These dynamics in 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 include creation, the aspect of gender, function, glory, and marriage to illustrate as well as prove the veiling's point. So, the reason for the covering was established at creation according to this scripture.

Before we go any further, we need to realize that obedience and good works can never atone for our sins. Our sins can only be atoned for by the blood of Jesus, and that is because He was sinless. If Jesus had sin, He would have had to die because of His own sin, but because He did not have sin, He could die for us—He paid the price it took so our sins can be forgiven. We call this the atonement. There are so many scriptures we could use to illustrate this, but here is one:

Hebrews 9:11-12: "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by **his own blood** he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

Salvation and forgiveness of sin are possible because of the atonement of Jesus Christ. Atonement became possible when He died on the cross and shed His sinless blood, thus satisfying the wrath God had toward our sin. This atonement is only available to us if we repent and forsake our sin. We are saved to serve a living God, not to serve Satan and the lusts of the flesh.

Our obedience and good works that are a result of God's salvation can never fill Jesus' place to atone for our sins. In the following diagram, the space that represents serving the living God and being obedient to His word is our total response for what God has done for us. The Christian woman's covering fits into this space the same as honesty, baptism, community, purity, love etc. And our view (men's and women's) on the Christian woman's covering begins at creation.



Following are the three areas we will look at.

- A. The Creation of Man and Woman
- B. The Place of the Christian Woman's Covering
- C. The Effects of the LGBTQ

## A. The Creation of Man and Woman

*Note: In the following section, the Old Testament text is in green print and the New Testament text is in red print.*

Our worldview on gender, function, glory, and marriage is first formed at creation and established through scripture. All of the following graphics show different aspects of creation, yet they are connected in one way or another. In God's creation gender, function, glory, and marriage are all harmonious, pure, and proper. God's creation was very good. Unless we believe this, we will have trouble with the Christian woman's covering.

### The Gender Aspect

#### Genesis 1:26-28 (KJV)

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

The creation of man and women is referenced in 1 Corinthians 11:7,8,9: 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. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

### The Function Aspect

Gen 2:18 I will make him an **help meet** for him.

**Genesis 2:21-23 (KJV)** <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; <sup>22</sup> And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. <sup>23</sup> And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

**1 Corinthians 11:8-9 (KJV)** <sup>8</sup> For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. <sup>9</sup> Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

### The Glory Aspect

**Genesis 2:7 (KJV)**

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

**1 Corinthians 11:7 (KJV)**

<sup>7</sup> For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, forasmuch as he is the image and **glory** of God

**Genesis 2:21-22 (KJV)**

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

<sup>22</sup> And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

**1 Corinthians 11:7 (KJV)** : but the woman is the **glory** of the man.

**1 Corinthians 11:15 (KJV)**

<sup>15</sup> But if a woman have long hair, it is a **glory** to her: for *her* hair is given her for a covering.

### The Marriage Aspect

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

**Mark 10:6-9 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

<sup>7</sup> For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;

<sup>8</sup> And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

<sup>9</sup> What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

## B. The Place for the Christian Woman's Covering

I am including the scripture concerning this in its entirety. Even though I will be addressing it in parts, this will give a quick reference to check each part in context.

### **1 Corinthians 11:1-16 (KJV)**

- <sup>1</sup> Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.
- <sup>2</sup> Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered *them* to you.
- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> Every man praying or prophesying, having *his* head covered, dishonoureth his head.
- <sup>5</sup> 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.
- <sup>6</sup> 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.
- <sup>7</sup> 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.
- <sup>8</sup> For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.
- <sup>9</sup> Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.
- <sup>10</sup> For this cause ought the woman to have power on *her* head because of the angels.
- <sup>11</sup> Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.
- <sup>12</sup> For as the woman *is* of the man, even so *is* the man also by the woman; but all things of God.
- <sup>13</sup> Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?
- <sup>14</sup> Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?
- <sup>15</sup> But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for *her* hair is given her for a covering.
- <sup>16</sup> But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Following are 5 reasons from 1 Corinthians 11 that a Christian woman should be covered.

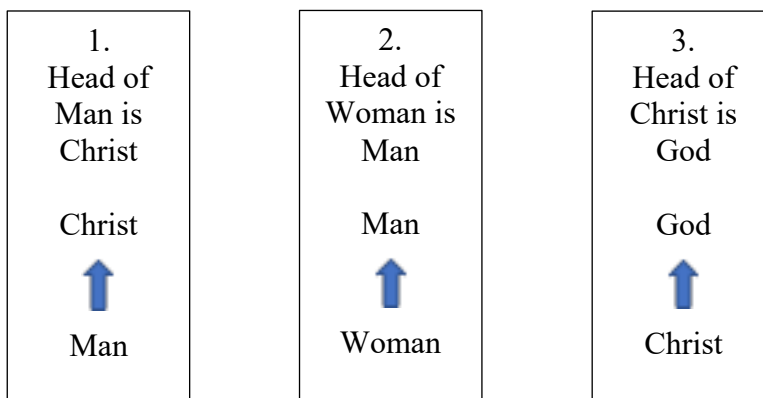
1. God's arrangement for headship (v. 3-9)
2. Creation (v. 7-9)
3. The angels (v. 10)
4. One's intuitive thinking (v. 11:13)
5. Nature's example (v. 13-15)

### **1. God's arrangement for headship**

**1 Corinthians 11:3 (KJV):** "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 Scripture's object lesson is that of the body to the head.

1. The first relationship addressed is the relationship of Man (the male) and Jesus Christ.
2. The second relationship is the relationship of Woman and Man.
3. The third relationship is the relationship of Christ and God.



The submission of man to Christ in the man/Christ relationship should be an example of submission for the woman in the woman/man relationship. Christ gave the highest example of glad submission when he said in [Luke 22:42](#), “Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless **not my will, but thine, be done.**”

God demonstrated loving authority to Christ and Christ showed loving authority to man and man should show loving authority to women. Christ showed glad submission to his head, the Father. *Men should follow the example with glad submission to Christ, his head.* Women should show glad submission to man, her head. *Men should demonstrate loving authority as demonstrated by God to Christ and Christ to man.*

## 2. Creation 11:7-9

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Gen. 2:23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

[1 Corinthians 11:7-9 \(KJV\)](#)

“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. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.”

The reason man does not cover his head is because he was first created by God from the dust of the earth. This makes him the glory of God. The woman covers her head because she was created secondly, taken from the man’s side. This makes her the glory of man. The teaching in 1 Corinthians 11 comes from creation.

In the following verses, it becomes clear that man and woman are interdependent of each other. It never indicates that those with different roles or functions have greater or less value. It is illustrated in the Trinity. It is illustrated in the employer and the employee, and it is illustrated in the parents and the children. It is the same with man and women.

- **1 Corinthians 11:11-12 (KJV)** Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman *is* of the man, even so *is* the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

## 3. The angels 11:10

1Cor. 11:10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on *her* head because of the angels.

We will look at (1) the phrase “for this cause,” 2) the word *power*, and 3) the reason for angels.

(1) For this cause could be said, because of

(2) The definition of “power” denotes *authority* <sup>3</sup> In the sense of ability, it could mean privilege, freedom, or delegated influence: hence authority, liberty, right.<sup>4</sup>

(3) The reason for the angels should be understood from other usages, as follows. The angels are God’s witnesses and servants in one way or another. Witnesses to our obedience or disobedience.

SO: 1Cor. 11:10 Because of this ought the woman to have authority on *her* head because of the angels. In my words, I believe this is saying that because woman was created as a helpmeet and man is her head, the covering gives her the authority to pray to God and talk to others about God because of the angels.

- **Hebrews 1:14**, Are they not all **ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?**
- **1 Timothy 5:21**, I charge *thee* before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **elect angels**, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.”

- **Matthew 18:10 (KJV)**, Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their **angels** do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."
- **Matthew 16:27 (KJV)**, For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.
- **1 Corinthians 11:10 To paraphrase this verse:** For this cause (the previous verses of creation) ought the woman to have power (the authority, or the right) on her head (to pray and prophesy) because of the **angels**.

#### 4. One's intuitive thinking. 11:13

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

#### 5. Object Lesson 11:14-15

In these verses we find that even nature tells us that a man should have short hair and woman should have long hair. And that her hair is a nature's covering. The covering in verse 15 is not the same as in the forgoing verses. The original word is different. So we would call verses 14 and 15 an object lesson to understand the application.

**1 Corinthians 11:14-15** Doth not even **nature** itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for *her* hair is given her for a covering. (Not **as** a covering)

The key word here is "nature." By definition it means the nature of things or the order of nature as opposed to what has been produced by the art of man. In other words, Paul is using nature as an object lesson. Following is a list of verses that include this same word *nature*. Looking at them can help us correctly interpret what Corinthians 11:14-15 are saying.

- For if you were cut off from what is by **nature** a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to **nature** into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree? Romans 11:24
- Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by **nature** children of wrath, even as the rest. Ephesians 2:3

Nature's object lesson is not the covering mentioned earlier in this chapter. The Greek word covering in verse 15 is *peribolaion*,<sup>1</sup> where in the previous verses the Greek word for covering is *kata kalupto*. If God wanted nature's example to be the same covering as in the preceding verses, he would have use *kata kalupto* in verse 15.

#### Viewing the application

We will now consider the application of the covering as taught in 1 Corinthians 11:4-5 and 10. It is to be worn when praying and prophesying. In verses 5-6 and 14-15, we also learn that uncut hair and the covering go together for the woman.

Following is a chart showing the verse, the English word from the King James Version, and the Greek word from which the English word was translated. We will dissect each Greek word using the Strong's Concordance.

| • Verse | KJV Word  | Greek Word             |
|---------|-----------|------------------------|
| • 4.    | Covered   | <i>Kata</i>            |
| • 5.    | Uncovered | <i>A kata kaluptos</i> |

<sup>1</sup> *Peribolaion* denotes something thrown around. In Hebrews 1:12, this word is used as a mantle around the body or a vesture.

- 6. Covered *Kata kalupto*
- 6 Covered *Kata kalupto*
- 7. Cover *Kata kalupto*
- 13 Uncovered *A kata kaluptos*
- 15. Covering *Peribolaion*

In verses 5-7 and 13, the word “covered” is originally the compound word *kata kalupto*.<sup>2</sup> In the New Testament, *kata* is translated 107 times as according and 61 times as after and 11 times as, as. *Kalupto* is a verb. In the following verses we see how this verb was translated in other scriptures.

- And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was **covered (*kalupto*)** with the waves: but he was asleep. Matthew 8:24.
- No man, when he hath lighted a candle, **covereth (*kalupto*)** it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. Luke 8:16
- Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing **covered (*kalupto*)**, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. Matthew 10:26
- And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall **cover (*kalupto*)** the multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

The noun (*kaluma*) for this word *kalupto* is found in 2 Corinthians 3:13-16. “And are not like Moses, who used to put a **veil (*kaluma*)** over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away. But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same **veil (*kaluma*)** remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a **veil (*kaluma*)** lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the **veil (*kaluma*)** is taken away.”

Using the meaning of the different parts of this compound word *Kata kalupto*, we see that “covering” means, “something that is covered over or veiled.”

Before we conclude, we’ll address a few common questions that come up in discussion of this subject.

- **What about men wearing hats?** I believe that the Christian woman’s special covering for prayer and prophesying is not the same as a protective headgear, such as a man’s hat. Taking a protective headgear off on special occasions is for respect.
- **Should the covering just be worn for church?** Since praying is talking to God and prophesying is talking to others about God in one way or another, it is scriptural to wear it consistently. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to “pray without ceasing” and 1 Peter 3:1 says to “sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

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<sup>2</sup>The Strong’s number for covered is 2619. Being a compound word, it is made up of numbers 2596 & 2572.

### C. The Effects of the LGBTQ

The following is in no way saying that all persons who do not practice the wearing of of the Christian Woman's Covering are for LGBTQ. My point is that 1Cor 11 has to do with gender and function, and uses creation to establish the fact. My point is also that LBGTO destroys the creation purpose. When we do not obey the scripture that supports God's will, we lay the groundwork for the enemy, even though we are not intending to do it.

The LBGTO destroys all of these

The Gender Aspect

The Function Aspect

The Glory Aspect

The Marriage Aspect

The LGBTQ movement destroys all of the aspects of Creation. If Satan can get us to destroy these aspects, he is destroying us. The last straw with Sodom and Gomorrah was the sin of destroying gender and purity, the way God created us. Those things that break down the gender, function, glory, and marriage aspects prepare the soil for LGBTQ, *even though we do not intend it to*. Fathers and mothers and preachers need to teach and practice those things that would conserve God's way. We need to be affirming our children's masculinity and femininity.

At this writing, there are 121 LGBT affirmative churches on the website of the Brethren Mennonite Council for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender interests. I believe that a correct worldview will make us discerning in the issues that have to do with male and female functioning as God desires. When our worldview has the filter of God's plan for man and woman, we will be discerning with the issues that have to do with promoting male and female in its purity. 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 comes to play in this issue.

#### Conclusion:

The unveiled man and the veiled woman when praying and prophesying is part of a much bigger picture. That is why this principle should become part of our worldview. It is part of God's creation of gender, function, glory, and purity. It affects the home, the church, and society.

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