

**Together: Study of 1 Corinthians**  
**“5 Principles for Gender Roles in God’s Order”**  
**1 Corinthians 11:2-16**  
**September 30, 2018 / Pastor Shawn Penn**

**1. There is No Distinction in Gender worth .**  
**There is a Distinction in Gender Roles .**

<sup>3</sup> But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.  
1 Corinthians 11:3

◆ **Kephalē (ke-fä-lā’): Chief;Ruler;Origin;Source**

**2. We submit to God’s order of Authority.**

<sup>4</sup> Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. <sup>5</sup> But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved. <sup>6</sup> For if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head. 1 Corinthians 11:4-6

**3. Our Gender Roles are complimentary .**

<sup>7</sup> A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. <sup>8</sup> For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; <sup>9</sup> neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. <sup>10</sup> It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels. 1 Corinthians 11:7-9  
(see Genesis 2:18)

**4. Our Gender Roles are needed .**

<sup>11</sup> Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. <sup>12</sup> For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.  
1 Corinthians 11:11-12

**5. Our Gender Roles are not subject to cultural change or preference .**

<sup>13</sup> Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? <sup>14</sup> Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, <sup>15</sup> but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. <sup>16</sup> If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God.  
1 Corinthians 11:13-16

**Discussion Questions**

1. What was your “A-Ha” moment in Sunday’s Message? Why did this stand out to you?
2. The word “Head” (v.3) can either mean “chief” and “ruler” or “source” and “origin” (like the head of a stream). When Paul speaks of “Head” is he referring to superiority/inferiority or is he using it to suggest authority based on God’s design? Why do you think this?
3. What does it mean that woman is the glory of man? (v.7)
4. In the culture of Corinth a woman signaled that she was in right relationship with her husband either by wearing a covering on her head or by wearing her hair up (rather than letting it fall loose). What reasons does Paul give for continuing this practice (vv 4-10, 13-16)?
5. Paul balances his comments by saying “in the Lord” man is not independent of woman (v.11-12). Why is this balance important? What difference will this truth make in your relationship to the opposite sex?
6. How does Jesus’ willing submission to the Father serve as an example of how it is never demeaning to live out our God appointed roles? (You may want to look at Philippians 2:3-11; John 4:34, 5:30)
7. What are some ways the truth of this passage could (and often are) misunderstood and distorted?
8. In what specific situations is it hardest for you to submit to a God-ordained authority? Why?