

TFTD Wednesday October 7th

On the other hand ...

Bible Passage 1 Corinthians 11. 11-16; 14.33-36

In chapter eleven verses eleven to sixteen of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians; Paul begins by saying that the sexes are absolutely dependent on one another. Neither is disposable or secondary.

Beyond that Paul states everything is from God. Both genders need each other, and both need God to exist and to thrive according to His design.

Paul goes on to make his case for why Corinthian women should wear a head covering when praying or prophesying at a gathering of the church.

The reason for that is because in the time when Paul wrote, nearly all women covered their heads in public. Women with uncovered heads were seen by the people of that era, much in the same way modern culture might react to a woman wearing purposefully revealing clothing or lingerie. The implication in that era is someone advertising their sexuality.

In Paul's words, they were revealing their glory and bringing shame on their husbands.

Also in the culture of Corinth, uncovering a woman's head was a sign of sexual availability, prostitution or idol worship. That was the social meaning of that style of dress.

In many parts of the world today, there is no social implication that, a woman's glory is revealed by seeing her uncovered head. The principle still exists, however even if different markers of modesty and covering have become more prominent. The principle of Paul's teaching would apply to those standards.

Paul continues by saying in first Corinthians chapter fourteen verses thirty-three to thirty-six. That in public worship, everything must be done in harmony and with order. Even when the gifts of the holy spirit are being exercised, there is no excuse for disorder. For when there is chaos, the church is not allowing the holy spirit to work among believers as he would like.

In chapter eleven verse five women prayed and prophesied in public worship.

It is also clear in chapters twelve to fourteen that women are given spiritual gifts and are encouraged to exercise them in the body of Christ. Women have much to contribute and can participate in worship services.

In the light of this passage the good news is that, in God's Kingdom we are all children of God and equal in his sight.

We exist to complement each other with our God given gifts and talents, for the glory of God here on earth as it is in heaven.

Today more than ever, we need a kindred spirit of the love and affection of Christ Jesus, so that we may shine forth the message of Christ's salvation to all.

That is why, it is important that we are united in the fellowship of Christ Jesus so that we can attain the maturity and the knowledge of the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

The importance of love and unity within the body of Christ is a fundamental message. Paul says 'Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit, through the bond of peace.' Ephesians 4:3

And Jesus prayed 'I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me so they may be brought to complete unity.' Amen. John 17:22-23.

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