



Study Guide

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

December 4 & 5, 2021

Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you and then **Read 1 Corinthians 11:2-16** (out loud, two times if possible).

1. Outside this passage there are only a few times in the New Testament where the word “head” is used figuratively. Look up these occurrences and jot down who “head” refers to and what it means.

Ephesians 1:22

Ephesians 4:15

Colossians 1:18

Colossians 2:10

Colossians 2:19

Ephesians 5:23

2. In light of those passages, what do you think it means that “the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God”?
3. There’s lots of debate about this passage, but virtually everyone agrees Paul wants men and women to either be distinguishable in either what they wear on their head or their hair. The argument is hard to follow, but what reasons does Paul give for this kind of sex/gender-specific differentiation?

4. In **verses 7-9**, Paul is riffing off of **Genesis 1:26-28** and **Genesis 2:15-25**. Go check out those passages and jot down any significant observations you see about sex/gender.
5. Regardless of the specific issue related to their physical heads, it’s clear that women (as well as men) were “praying and prophesying” when the church gathered in Corinth. Read ahead a bit and check out **14:1-3, 24-33** for some hints at what prophesying might have involved. What do you think “prophesying and praying” looks like in 21st century church gatherings?
6. If Paul’s basic contention is that men and women shouldn’t dress/act in ways that blur the line between male/female OR draw undue attention to themselves ... what might be some modern day applications?
7. How would you talk through this issue with a brother or sister in Christ who says, “Spring Lake Church is not obeying Scripture? NONE of the women have their heads covered here!”?
8. We know that our words/actions/dress are reflections of our heart and our heart motivation is what God really cares about! What do you do to “prepare your heart” to magnify God before you gather with other believers?