

Bereans Bible Institute
Module IX, The Christian Home
Lesson 8, The Godly Christian Woman (Part 3)

I. God instructed Eve through Adam (Gen. 2:16: “*And **the Lord GOD commanded the man**, saying”*)

So also the Apostles typically instructed the wives **indirectly** in the assembly:

A. Subjunctive mood (wives should ...); or infinitive mood (wives are to be ...).

B. Imperative mood, third person – commands to men concerning their wives (ex. “*have her shear herself;” “have her be covered.”*)

1. Sole exception – Col. 3:18, ὑποτάσσεσθε – imperative mood second person: “*Wives, submit to the husband.*” However, older uncial manuscripts (Codex Sinaiticus & Codex Boernerianus) have ὑποτάσσεσθαι – infinitive mood: “*Wives are to be submissive to the husband.*” If this is correct, then the pattern seems to hold consistently throughout the Epistles.

II. 1 Cor. 11:2-16 LGV

2 Now I am praising **you, brothers**, because you have remembered me in everything, and you are observing the traditions accordingly as I gave to you.

3 Yet, I desire you to have observed that the head of every man is Christ; the head of woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

4 Every man praying or prophesying having anything upon the head is dishonoring his Head. 5 But every woman praying or prophesying with uncovered head [Num. 5:11-31] is dishonoring her head, for it is one and the same as having been sheared. 6 For if a woman is uncovered, **have her shear herself**. [Disgrace herself publically rather than disgrace her husband]. But, if it is dishonorable to a woman to shear herself, or to be shaved [Isaiah 3:17,24], **have her be covered**. [Isaiah 6:2; Isaiah 11:9; Isaiah 26:21]

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head. The image and glory of God belongs to him. But woman is the glory of man. 8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created through woman, but woman through man. 10 Therefore the woman ought to have the authority upon her head for this reason: because of the angels. [Eph. 3:8-12 & Jude 1:6].

11 However, in the Lord, man is not independent of woman nor woman of man. 12 For just as the woman is from the man, thus also man comes through woman. Yet everything comes from God.

13 Judge this for yourselves: Is it proper for an uncovered woman to be praying to God? 14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man should grow his hair long, it is dishonoring to him [Ezek. 44:20], 15 but if a woman should grow her hair long it is a glory to her, because long hair has been given to her as a mantle? [Judges 8:26; Ezek. 16:13; Ezek. 27:7]

16 But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.