

**Discussion Questions Set #1**

“A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man”. (1 Corinthians 11:7-9)

In sermon, we learned that our passage for the day is highly bound to both a context and a culture, both of which are somewhat foreign and vague to us. Proper interpretation of this passage requires an acknowledgement of various realities present within Corinth. We learned that there was a tendency within the Corinthian church to misuse personal freedom for selfish outcomes rather than for communal edification, growth and development. In our passage, the issue of the use of head coverings in the worship setting of the Corinthian church was stunting communal growth; distraction from Jesus was occurring in their worship gatherings.

1. Discuss the impact of distraction in worship. Why might distraction caused by the intentional flaunting of personal freedom lead to stunted community growth?
2. What might these realities suggest about our approach to worship (along an individual/communal spectrum)?
3. Paul closes this passage by suggesting that there ought be no contention about such issues within the church of God. Why would Paul suggest that this contentious issue ought not be found disrupting the worship of God?
4. In our text, we likely see the impact of the “eschatological women” once again, seeking to blur the lines between the genders. Why do you think they were doing this? What might have been their goal in pushing such an agenda? Discuss the balance between personal rights and communal benefit in regards to this.

**Discussion Questions Set #2**

“Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God” (1 Corinthians 11:11-12)

“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man”. (Genesis 2:23)

1. Why might gender distinction in worship be an important consideration for the church?
2. Thinking of our world’s general “confusion” regarding gender distinction, how might Paul’s discussion in our text provide some clarity for such confusion?
3. Why do you think that there are some fears/discomfort related to the idea of gender distinction in the church in 2022?
4. Discuss how 1 Corinthians 11:11-12 might provide a helpful solution for such fears/discomfort. How ought mutuality function within the body of Christ in terms of gender distinction?
5. What might it mean to worship God in our distinct masculinity and femininity? Why might this variety be beneficial to the church?
6. One of our closing commitments in sermon was that we commit to being sensitive to issues of culture, discerning how and when, “big rock” issues of faith trump these non-essential culturally bound issues; that we refuse to become so culturally offensive that our gatherings become filled with barriers to those not yet following Jesus, while also ensuring that Christ is our guide for our gatherings and not culture. In a practical way, what might it look like in worship gatherings:
  - a. To be so culturally offensive that our gatherings become filled with barriers to those not yet following Jesus?
  - b. To be so influence by culture that Christ is not our guide?
  - c. To strike a helpful balance between cultural influence and the guidance of Christ Jesus?