

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: May 26, 2019
1 Corinthians 11:2-16

1. What is Paul praising the Corinthians for, in verse 2? _____
2. What does Paul mean, in verse 3?
 - a. It sounds like he is talking about a hierarchy of authority. Christ – Man - Woman.
 - b. Some have said that this word ‘head’ does not refer to authority as much as origin. Therefore, God (and all things were made through Christ) gave life to man and man, in turn, gave of himself (rib) to give life to woman. This seems to match with verses 11-12, which remind us that women then have given birth to men.
3. What, then, does Paul instruct the Corinthians in verses 4-12?
 - a. Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covers dishonors his head. A man shouldn’t cover his head since he is the image and glory of God (verses 4 & 7)
 - b. Every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head – it is the same as having her head shaved (verses 5-6, 15).
4. Is this text talking about hats in church? _____

5. What issues do verses 14-16 bring up?
 - a. The very nature of things teaches us that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him.
 - b. If a woman has long hair, it is her glory.
 - c. We have no other practice.
6. It seems like Paul is referring to a clear social and cultural distinction that is associated with hairstyles. Do you think that these things carry the same meaning for us today as they did in the time and culture to which Paul was writing? Yes _____ No _____ Explain. _____

7. What does verse 16 tell us about the church at the time that this was written?
 - a. This was what Paul and his companions were practicing.
 - b. This was the only thing that was practiced in the churches, so there was no reason to question it.
 - c. It is interesting that he seems to base this instruction on culture and traditional practice more than
8. Do you think that are still lessons that we can take from this? Yes _____ No _____
What might we take from this?
 - a. Like is said in verses 11-12, men and women are interdependent.
 - b. Like God intends for his church, there are roles for both men and women in the family structure and a family that is missing these interdependent roles might be missing an important element.
 - c. Both men and women have important roles in the family and in the church and Paul is pointing out clear cultural distinctions. While those distinctions may not be the same today, there should be a distinction between male and female (Deut 22:5).