

T H E C O N T E N D E R

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)
Church of Christ: 4th Ave. South Shore, Ky. P.O. Box 649; 11/19/1972
Editor & evangelist: Richard E. Swan; Phone: Volume I No. 6



"FOR IF THE WOMAN BE NOT COVERED.." (I Cor. 11:6)

In our study we call your attention to the "custom position" noting the arguments advanced by Paul for men to be uncovered and women to be covered in prayer are not based upon human custom but on the unchanging law of God. These arguments still hold true today.

MAN UNCOVERED

WOMAN COVERED

- v. 3--Man is woman's head. Eph. 5:23
I Tim. 2:11-14
- v. 4--For man to pray covered dishonors Christ
- v. 7--Man is the image and glory of God. Gen. 5:1
- v. 8--Man did not come from woman Gen. 2:7
- v. 9--Man was not created for woman

- v. 3--Headship Eph. 5:22, I Pet. 3
- v. 5--When a woman prays uncovered she dishonors man
- v. 6--"For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off." (NASV)
- v. 6--Baldness is still a shame
- v. 7--Woman is man's glory
- v. 8--The woman is from the man Gen. 2:21-23

ORDER OF SERVICES

- * Lord's Day: 10:00 a.m. Worship
- * 7:00 p.m. Worship
- * Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
- *****
- "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." I Sam. 15:23

- * v. 9--The woman was created for the man Gen. 2:18
- * v. 10--"..the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head because of the angels"
- * v. 13--The ability to make a decision after being presented with facts I Cor. 10:15

A VOICE FROM THE PAST: "But that point which is promiscuously observed throughout the churches, whether virgins ought to be veiled or no, must be treated of. For they who allow virgins immunity from head-covering, appear to rest on this: that the apostle has not defined 'virgins' by name, but 'woman' as to be veiled; nor the sex generally, so as to say 'females' but a class of the sex, by saying 'woman': for if he had named the sex by saying 'females' he would have made his limit absolute for every woman: but while he names one class of the sex, he separates another class by being silent. For, they say, he might either have named 'Virgins' specially, or generally, by the term 'female'. They who make this concession ought to reflect on the nature of the word itself what is the meaning of 'woman' from the very first records of the sacred writings. Here they find it to be the name of the sex, not a class of the sex: if that is, God gave to Eve, when she had not yet known a man, the surname 'woman' and 'female'. (Gen. 1:27, 2:22) So, since at that time she as yet unwedded Eve was called by the word 'woman' that word has been made common even to a virgin. 'Every woman' saith he, 'praying and (He misquotes the verse here RES) prophesying with head uncovered, dishonoreth her head'. What is 'every woman' but women of every age, of every rank, of every condition? By saying 'every' he excepts nought of womanhood, just as he excepts nought of manhood either from not being covered; for just so he says, 'every man'. As then in the masculine sex, under the name of man even the 'youth' is forbidden to be veiled.

So, too, did the Corinthians themselves understand him. In fact, at this day the Corinthians do veil their virgins. What the apostles taught, their disciples approve...

To such as read these (exhortations) with good will, to such as prefer Utility to Custom, may peace and grace from our Lord Jesus Christ redound: as likewise to Septiminius Tertullianus, whose this tractate is."--Tertullian, 145-220 A.D. Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 384--

THE PRACTICE AT CORINTH

We are made to marvel at the boldness of the apostle Paul as he instructs the Corinthian Christians on this subject. He presents doctrine not based upon human custom and contrary to the practice of everyone there. Let's just note who was at Corinth.

JEWS (Acts 18:8): "The Jewish worshipper in praying always covers his head with his tallith." (The Pulpit Commentary On I Corinthians, p. 361; also see II Sam. 15:30-32) Adam Clarke writes, "This decision of the apostles was in point blank hostility to the canons of the Jews; for they would not suffer a man to pray unless he was veiled, for which they gave this reason: 'He should veil himself to show that he is ashamed before God, and unworthy with open face to behold Him.'" (God's Truth On The Covering, p. 36)

GREEKS (Acts 18:4): "Amongst the Greeks both sexes worshipped with uncovered head, although women covered their heads at other times, while Roman men and women alike covered their heads during religious rites." (G.G. Findlay In The Expositor's Greek Test, p. 872)

GENTILES (I Cor. 12:2): "In regard to acts of public worship there existed a remarkable difference between the Greeks and the Romans. The Greek prayed with his head uncovered whereas the Roman veiled his head." (F. Godet, God's Truth On Covering, p. 36) "Corinth was made up of Greeks, Romans and Jews, and all these three elements of her population were found in the church to which Paul wrote. The Jew and the Roman worshipped with covered, and the Greek with uncovered head. Naturally a dispute would arise as to which custom was right. Moreover, as the women were beyond all doubt acquainted with the principle that there is neither male nor female in the spiritual realm (Gal. 3:28), they seem to have added to the confusion by taking sides in the controversy, so that some of them asserted the right to worship with uncovered heads after the fashion of the Greeks." (J.W. McGarvey, Commentary On Ist. Cor. p. 110)

WHAT ABOUT VERSE 16?

King James: "But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."

New American Standard: "But if one is inclined to be contentious, we have no other practice, nor have the churches of God."

Revised Standard: "If anyone is disposed to be contentious, we recognize no other practice, nor do the churches of God"

Goodspeed: "But if anyone is disposed to be contentious, we for my part recognize no other practice in worship than this, and neither do the churches of God."

Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition: "But if anyone is disposed to be contentious--we have no such custom neither have the churches of God."

Whatever the human custom may have been among the Corinthians Paul wants it understood that neither he nor the churches of God have it and to underscore this point he has just set forth doctrine, not based upon human custom, going against every human custom that might have been at Corinth. We have no such custom of men praying ~~un~~covered and women praying uncovered.

"OUR CUSTOM": Jean Bruce in her column in the Nashville Tennessean wrote, "A woman should wear a hat and gloves to church and to any religious ceremony, even one taking place in a home" (Also Amy Vanderbilt's Everyday Etiquette, p. 232)

So the standard procedure in our society does unequivocally state that a woman should be covered in church assemblies. An uncovered woman in worship not only violates the New Testament but good etiquette (God's Truth On The Covering, Frank Rester, p. 40)