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# Is the Headcovering Really an Issue?

## A Serious and Indepth Study

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[A Woman's Headcovering. Is it Really for Today?](#) by Various Christians

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"What's that thing on your head? Are you Amish?" Such have been the questions that my wife and daughters get asked from time to time. For the last 12 years, we've been associated with Christians whose women and ancestors have worn them as far back as they can remember.

The Answer? "No, we are just Christians. Oh, yes, about the thing on their heads: it's called a 'Headcovering' or 'veiling' these days."

But what does all this mean?

- 1) Is the headcovering a real issue in our day and age?
- 2) Weren't headcoverings for a particular time and culture ages ago? This whole issue seems to centre around what is meant in 1st Corinthians 11, verses 1 through 16.
- 3) Is this a fair and objective approach or just old fashioned legalism?

## Why This Article?

As you get into this, the thought may come to you, "Why does he need to go into such detailed explanations? Why not just come out with it and be done with it?" Good question. Here's why:

Please understand this; I am **NOT** one who **enjoys** lengthy theological or philosophical discussions or discourses. I would much rather state the facts as they are, as briefly as possible, and be done with it too. I wish I could, but here's the problem. The truth relating to this matter has **ALREADY** been laid down for us 2000 years ago in our Bibles. If it was simply a matter of reading plain English and doing it, I'd be done with it.

However, in our day and age, many are confused respecting the meaning of these passages in 1 Corinthians 11. Somehow, there seems to be a "**WALL**" to being able to understand or **ACCEPT** plainly worded English here. There appears to be "Something else" hindering our understanding concerning these clearly worded verses. This "Something else" is what, first of all, needs to be addressed, identified and faced, before we "westerners" will "see with our eyes, and hear with our ears, and understand with our hearts". I'm simply endeavoring to expose & **STRIP** away the "other things entering in" (Mark 4:19), so that understanding can come, so please bear with me.

## Why make such a Big Deal about a Covering?

Good question. However, if the importance of the question of 'why worry about headcoverings' forever escapes you, in other words, it seems like 'no big deal' or a "minor" to you, then going through this article will probably be so much wasted time. Maybe it's because as "modern" westernized Christians, we don't have a good grasp of Jesus' meaning when He said, "**Not every one** that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (the word "iniquity" here is the Greek word "anomos"-meaning against law or lawlessness from where our English word [Antinomian](#) comes from; Matt. 7:21-23).

The question of the 'importance' of "to headcover or not to headcover" is at the root to this issue. To understand this, we need to forget the subject of headcoverings altogether. It isn't a matter of a headcovering being a "minor" or a "major". It's a matter of obedience to Christ or not. It's a matter of understanding Christianity; that it's one of self-denial, surrender and obedience to the one Who first loved us. It's a matter of how we show our love to Him. He knows and said, "He that hath my commandments, **AND KEEPETH THEM**, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. ...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. **He that loveth me NOT keepeth not my sayings**: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." (John 14:21, 23, 24)

I don't really see any "**room**" for minors and majors in the Christian's life. Maybe Jonah thought that going to Ninevah was a "minor" with God. Maybe Abraham thought that, in working out God's promise in the flesh, he could take his wife's handmaid to wife, because he thought that doing so was a "minor" with God. Today we can clearly see the "results" of what Abraham did in the Arab areas, and we know what happened to Jonah. So to stamp what God tells His

Church to do with a "minor" on this one and a "major" on that, is very foolish and, simply put, going against God's commandments and will. When it comes to loving obedience to God, there can never be any "minors" or "majors". To not **"obey"** God is to not really **"love"** God. I didn't say this; Jesus did. Besides, what He said is very true and logical. We know this is true when dealing with people in our everyday lives. It's just like this: if we tell someone we love them, but don't act as though we do with our actions, they will have a hard time believing us.

So whether or not the headcovering is important for today should come down to one question: will we do anything God wants of us, simply because we love Him? It has nothing to do with it being a "minor" or a "major". It has to do with whether or not it was (and is) God's command and teaching for His Church from the beginning. It has to do with doing God's will or not. This is true of everything we do in our Christian lives. If we stamp a "minor" on this one and a "major" on that, we are simply acting like Pharisees to whom Jesus said "...Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition (like culture). Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye." (Mark 7:9, 13)

So if some of God's commands to His Church become **"of none effect"** because **"you"** think they are "minors", then **it doesn't really matter** whether you **"are convinced"** or **"prayed"** about whether you should do them or not. **It really doesn't matter about the issue or subject at hand any more.** It is **now** only a matter of you walking in disobedience to Christ and His commands and teachings for His bride, His Church. It's His Church and He is the head. He decides how it is to be pure, without one spot or wrinkle. A disobedient Church has no place in His wedding supper as He plainly taught in His parables. However, even this point has been made **"of none effect"** by our clever teachers who teach that you can do anything against God, once you've spent 5 or 10 minutes saying some magic words called a **"sinner's prayer"** and then you are always safe from going to hell. Not only is this idea without any Scriptural foundation, but it cleverly destroys any motivation for obedience to God.

This is where you, dear reader, must come to a conclusion. If you feel **"safe"** in disobeying God on the things you (& your teachers) have made **"of none effect"**, then you will probably be wasting your time to read any

further. However, if you (as I hope) are not already besmirched by such heretical thinking, and desire to know and do God's will and truth, then please read on.

## What's This Article Supposed to be About?

If you do **not** like to pray and think things through or be stimulated to find the truth as God sees it, the following may seem boring.

For those of you who **do** like to **think**, I wish to say this. I do not claim to know every facet of truth concerning this subject. There are many others, wiser than I, who have already covered it to a fuller and deeper extent. I only wish to humbly stimulate you to seek the Lord, so that He can teach you "all things".

The following is supposed to be an honest look at the reasons for and objections to wearing something **today** that, in North America, seems as foreign as finding African Pigmies in Nome, Alaska.

## A Few Questions, please

Before going through this study, we need to be honest with ourselves and realize the deceitfulness of our own hearts. I would humbly ask the following, so please be honest about yourself and answer them slowly, thoughtfully and carefully:

1a) Do you really **want** to know the truth, or b) just stay comfortable with what you believe until we die?

2a) Is it **truly** that you don't understand what Paul and the Church believed respecting the Headcovering, or is it b) that you don't **want** to understand?

3) Are your "beliefs", respecting this subject, in actuality really based on questions like: what will my spouse, family, friends, and (sadly to say) Church think?

4) Are you more concerned with how this subject will affect your job, community status and/or reputation, etc., than your relationship with God?

If we can answer "yes" to question(s) 1b, 2b, 3 or 4, then facing up to such an admission, could reveal the root of our blindness in seeing God's truth relating to other spiritual subjects, not just the headcovering. Such worldly concerns can keep anyone in deception on any spiritual question. As Christians, we must be keenly aware of the constant threat God is to our temporal, free will. If we're honest with ourselves, we need to realize that whatever spiritual conclusions we might come to that confirm the need for a headcovering, they will have a drastic and humbling affect on our lives. That is, of course, if we don't already believe in wearing one.

## Ground Rules?

However, as we proceed, allow me to briefly lay down some ground rules, so to speak. Whenever spiritual truth is being sought, we must be aware that many things can (and most likely 'will' in this case) hinder us. I would like to start out, firstly, by addressing these 'hindrances'. I realize that, just because we know hindrances exist, it does not necessarily mean that we realize that they affect us personally.

Please take your time and read through the following slowly and carefully. This is the only way to 'think' about **WHY** what is being said is true. Get your Bible out and "prove all things", seeing "whether these things are so." It is especially necessary to read, pray, and think deeply about what is being presented here. With this in mind, let us proceed.

## Hindrances to Our Understanding

1) The first real hindrance we battle is our American 'Culture'. For most of us, this place is all we've ever known, all our lives. To us, this is **THE** way to live. This is **THE** way to think. This is **THE** best country in the world. (The Bible calls this last statement unwise- 2Cor. 10:12). Apart from the obvious hypocrisy in such statements, I'm sure that other great cultures have had similar thoughts as well. Today, we usually look down on these cultures as being blind or inferior, but **CAN** we see ourselves objectively? I am presenting this paper in the faith that we CAN.

a) So, what is Culture? Culture is a set of unspoken rules defining "the way we do things". The dictionary defines it as "socially transmitted behavior patterns of a particular period, class, community, or population". In other words, culture is based simply upon, "THIS IS THE WAY IT IS". In general, it has no relationship whatsoever to actual right or wrong; moral or immoral standards. It is solely derived on nothing other than 'Random' circumstances, without any due regard for righteousness or holiness.

### Some examples:

Here's an example of cultural dictates in another country: You are in South America. Say, for instance, you've just gathered a group of children to hear a Bible story. After you're finished, the children gather around. As a bit of fun for the children, you decide to measure how tall a certain friendly child is. You get your tape measure out and start to measure this child's height. Immediately the locals watching become very agitated. But why? Because to measure someone in certain South American countries, according to their random culture, means that you are measuring them for a casket and their imminent death.

Here's another example. Perhaps you're in Western Africa. You and your entire family are driving along in a borrowed or rental car. You approach a local village. Suddenly a young man appears out of nowhere. He bolts right out in front of your vehicle. You jerk the wheel to miss, but your left fender manages to clip his side. Off he goes, flying into a crumpled heap. His family and neighbors

come running to see what's happened to him. Oh, no. You better see if he's all right. Wait a minute! You better not stop! If you do, you and your family will most assuredly be killed immediately. Why? That's their Culture!! To them it's the same as if you had just come up, pulled a gun and shot him on purpose. No, you must first find a police officer and have him investigate it, alone. Sound fair, logical, moral, righteous? No way, but it's their culture, just the same. To Africans, their actions are as normal as our reading a newspaper on a bus going to work.

This is one 'big' reason why we can get into serious trouble when the Scriptures are viewed through the eyes of our own culture. So, please try not to interpret the headcovering subject, nor the Scriptural idea of it, according to your culture. I know this is easier said than done. But we CAN do all things through Christ Jesus, including this, if we sincerely want to. This brings me to our next hurdle.

2) The fact that we are Adam's descendants makes us very vulnerable to this next hindrance. What's that? It is our keen ability to take things for granted. It is easy for us to miss the forest when we are living amongst the trees. Maybe it's because as we learn to do and see certain things every day over and over again, we get used to them. After constantly doing and seeing things so often, we really don't think about them anymore. We switch our brain into mental 'Autopilot'. Ever been told "if it had been a snake, it would have bitten you", when you've looked so hard for something? I sure have. That's because we function so much on autopilot.

So, when it comes to understanding spiritual things in a new (more Scriptural) way, this 'being on autopilot' will definitely cause problems, more often than not. We are prone to miss the obvious, whenever we're endeavoring to understand something that's related to principles we perform on autopilot.

3) This last one is a 'BIG ONE'. It's our keen ability to 'Rationalize' things away. Without really thinking about what we're doing, on command, we can nimbly dissect a Bible chapter, verse, teaching or doctrine, classifying it into neat theological dogmas or 'heresies'.

How's that? We've heard right teachings on this or that for years, right? This

allows us to think that we know all kinds of things, simply because we THINK we've been 'taught' right. But wait a minute. It all depends on whose point of view we've been taught, doesn't it? I'm not trying to step on anyone's toes here. Please forgive me, dear hearts, if this comes across that way. I just know this from personal experience and from hearing others, who have realized this, tell it.

This Rationalization is a BIG, BIG problem. It effectively causes us to shoot ourselves in the foot, in the following way. On one hand, we may find ourselves getting so desperate for 'real' answers in dealing with the failures and frustrations in our Christian life. But, on the other hand, at the same time even, we are actually resisting God, the Holy Spirit, from speaking into our lives concerning what needs to **CHANGE**, by practicing Scripture Rationalization. In this way, clear Scriptural teachings are, henceforth, rationalized away in much the same way that a child rationalizes when refusing to try a new food or take a life saving medicine.

Bear in mind that all three of these hindrances interact with each other, as well. So please, dear ones, bear in mind as you read on, that these hindrances **DO** and **WILL** affect our ability to come to a logical and spiritually discerned understanding of the Headcovering issue.

Keeping in mind what culture is based on (i.e.- nothing other than random circumstances, without any due regard for righteousness or holiness), we must 'deeply' understand that just because something exists in our society today, it doesn't make it right or true. It is a reality that, in our American society today, women do not generally ever wear headcoverings. So, all kinds of pre-conceived obstacles are already planted firmly inside our heads. These have to be overcome, to a certain extent, before we can even begin to think about the Headcovering subject clearly. In other words, it is almost impossible to have an objective view.

## How do we Know Something is True?

I would like to keep the foregoing three hindrances in mind (our culture, being on mental autopilot, & rationalizing) as we examine the headcovering issue in the following, rational way:

There are only 3 ways of knowing about anything in this life. There are no other ways. They only come by 'experiencing' them. However, without knowing God and/or using His Word, guided by His Holy Spirit, what we 'think' we know will, most assuredly, lead us away from absolute truth and draw us towards total deception. I cannot stress this enough. There are no guarantees that what we know is the absolute truth without both God's Spirit and His Scriptures.

Of these 3 ways, on a purely experiential level, only the first way (#1) is the most reliable. The second way is fairly reliable, being much more preferable to the third way, which is the least reliable.

The 3 ways of knowing anything (or to think we know anything with some assurance) are:

#1-to actually see it or hear it first hand, ourselves.

#2-to hear or read it related by someone(s) who's seen or heard it first hand.

#3-to hear or read it related or discussed by someone(s) who's studied it, heard it second hand or believes it to be true, based on whatever they think may be enough proof to them. This "someone's" opinion can be based on anywhere from zero proof to huge evidences, irregardless of whether it's actually true or not. This third way may be just as reliable and true as the first two ways. Then again, It may be only partially true, or all lies. The problem is, the average listener and reader (and lazy Christian) find it much more convenient to accept things this way than verify them, like the noble Bereans.

Most of the time, this third way is the primary source many use to convince themselves that something is indeed true. This is usually the type of information that is heard from pulpits, traveling preachers, as well as taught at most colleges and Bible Schools. It takes little thought or effort on our part to acquire it. All we have to do is just sit, listen or read and believe.

How many times have we taken as fact what a newspaper reporter heard from a spokesperson or an official news service? How many times have we read a newspaper article about some incident we witnessed first hand only to find it inaccurate? The truth be known, respecting Christianity, you and I are full of this type of information, from various and sometimes conflicting sources. Why? Because we're lazy and eat up what's easy to digest. It's so easy to accept polished speeches and doctrines from folks with charisma.

Instead, we need to apply the Scriptures while going back to the first way of knowing things and then cautiously to the second way, if at all possible. Then when we hear information presented this third way, we will be able to discern the truth.

I realize that I am coming and presenting this to you by the 3rd way myself. So I exhort you to read the Scriptures and the early Church writers yourself and prove all these things for yourself.

## **The Meaning of 1st Corinthians 11**

Needless to say, since it isn't possible to speak with Paul personally, we can only read what he wrote. So this is where I will start, since it is the most reliable source. If we would just read and understand what Paul was trying to teach overall, the rest is simple. A simple read through of the first 16 verses of 1st Corinthians 11 will make it clear that Paul is NOT trying to convince the Corinthian women to put headcoverings on. Maybe this is one minor reason why there is so much confusion on the subject today. Strike one against 'rationalization' (see definitions under 'The Hindrances to Our Understanding').

Do you really think that prior to this, women went uncovered? Secular history proves otherwise. I don't discount the fact that Paul was also re-emphasizing the need for a covering, but Paul's main objective here wasn't about to headcover or not to headcover. He was primarily using an already universally accepted practice in and out of the Church, world wide, to teach the principle of headship and authority. In other words, he was using a normal Godly practice to bring out what was behind it.

You won't find complete directions for tent making in Paul's writing. You won't find exhortations about anything without getting the 'Spiritual' and eternal meaning behind it. This is explained by, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2Tim. 3:16). In the Bible, God has always given us shadows and types to teach us eternal principles about holiness, the atonement, sin, authority, etc. It is folly to assume that Paul is trying to force the headcovering issue foremost, instead of primarily teaching the real eternal meaning behind it. However, be this as it may, it would also be a terrible mistake to focus on the spiritual only and eliminate the headcovering practice itself.

The fact is, the headcovering has been a Godly practice amongst Christians and decent moral citizens everywhere up until recently. We in America are the ones who have the problem understanding it, because our backgrounds and culture are so defiled. Perhaps we can't understand this because of our democratic culture. Strike one against 'culture'. Why is that? Because in this country, we have lost the understanding of authority. If we don't understand or obey God's basics: His order for the family, home and Church, how can we expect to understand the need for a woman to wear a covering? One example would be this. If our children are never taught to obey their parents, how will they ever know that they need to obey the civil authorities? Answer? They won't. And guess what? Reality is not violated. We can easily observe the fruits of such by the lawlessness (an outward SIGN; manifestation) amongst our youth today.

It is noteworthy that respect for authority in this country has been declining for a number of years. It isn't too surprising, then, to see its venom spreading into the family unit and finally the Church. It's no secret that the moral climate of this country has gone downhill rapidly during the last one hundred years. I don't mean to imply that the following is the root cause, but it was a little over a

hundred years ago that women covered their heads. Back then it was the natural habit of moral women (and especially the Church) to cover their heads. Now they don't. The real root is that the headcovering's disappearance is a manifestation which is directly proportional to the spiritual decline of the Church.

## A Great Cloud of Witnesses

As far as a more direct teaching on headcoverings elsewhere in the Bible, it isn't there in plain language. Oh yes, in spirit it is, but only through brief examples, understanding Modesty, authority, headship and the benevolent dictatorship of God. In respect to modesty, there is a dearth in the land of America. Strike two against 'culture'.

We also still have the writings of the disciples of the Apostles, who lived in Paul's time and on, that discuss the very subject of headcoverings. They too were first hand witnesses to what the Apostles taught and practiced as Biblical truth. What did they say?

They knew that to cover a women's head with a veil was already universal spiritual knowledge. A few of them devoted entire chapters to the why, how, when and where. None were trying to convince the Church of the **NEED** to **START** wearing them, though. It was already accepted knowledge. They simply addressed the spiritual reasons **FOR** wearing them. After reading Tertullian (145 A.D.) and others, I get the idea that only pagan priestesses and queens, prostitutes and lesbians went without veils.

Since most American Christians have never read any of the early Church's history nor its writings, it isn't surprising that most today are in the dark about what the early Church believed. When American Christians come to Paul's chapter 11, most rationalize in trying to understand it, thereby missing the obvious. Strike one against 'autopilot, strike two against rationalization and strike three against 'culture'.

So it's not a matter of having to prove whether or not Paul wanted women to cover their heads. We don't have to speculate on what he 'probably' meant by a covering. That is only necessary now, because we look at things through our American culture. Besides, it is not very difficult to discover that most of the world had (until lately) veiled their women. It has only been in recent years that cultures like ours, that have advanced in sin, have cast off the sign of the veil. All speculation as to whether it was a sign of this or that is like searching in the dark when we ignore such a cloud of witnesses before us.

I can still remember when I was in my teens that the Roman Catholic women always covered their heads whenever they entered a Church building. Even today, born again Christians from the former Soviet Block countries still cover their heads with a veil. When they come here, they are absolutely shocked at the uncovered heads, short hair and immodest clothing worn by professing American Christian women and pastor's wives. Every former Soviet Christian I've known has told me that before they came here, God had warned them not to adopt our lukewarm ways such as our women's short hair, pants and lack of headcoverings, to mention a few.

## **A Few of Today's Arguments**

Many today, in mimicking what they've heard, say that the woman's hair is her covering, as it seems to imply in verse 15. Such statements are not at all original or honest. Besides, the Greek word used for 'covering' in 1 Corinthians 11:15 ("for her hair is given her for a covering") is completely different from the one translated 'covered' prior to this in Chapter 11. This Greek word (peribolaion), here in verse 15, means to 'wrap around'. Hence the meaning would be ... "for her hair is given her for 'to be wrapped around'". There is no clear idea here, nor from any early Church writer, that the 'hair' is the women's 'covering'. Furthermore, it would seem to be negating what Paul had just spent 13 verses on prior to this in chapter 11. The words translated "covering", "covered" or "cover" prior to verse 15 in Chapter 11 use an entirely different Greek word (katakalypto). This one means to 'veil or cover up oneself'.

But just suppose we take this word translated 'covering' to mean 'the hair', instead of a veiling. It doesn't take very long to see the folly of such an idea. Just simply insert some words meaning "with hair" in place of "covering", "covered" or "cover" in Chapter 11 and the truth will be as clear as day (only to an honest heart, that is). For example it would read starting from verse 4:

(NIV)-"Every man who prays or prophesies with his head **with hair** dishonours his head. :5 And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head **without hair** dishonours her head--it is just as though her head were shaved. :6 If a woman does not **have hair on** her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should **have hair on** her head. :7 A man ought not to **have hair on** his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. :8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; :9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. :10 For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head. :11 In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. :12 For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God. :13 Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head **without hair**?

(KJV)-"Every man praying or prophesying, having his head **with hair**, dishonoureth his head. :5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head **without hair** dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. :6 For if the woman be not **with hair**, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be **with hair**. :7 For a man indeed ought not to be **with hair on** his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man." :8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. :9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. :10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. :11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. :12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. :13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God **without hair**?

As any honest person can quickly see, the entire meaning of the text is

changed. Instead of being about authority and headship, the whole discussion would appear to centre around the subject of **having** or **not having "hair"**. It's as if Paul was confronting the whole Corinthian Church about a strange new heresy concerning "hair". Paul would now appear to be concerned that the Corinthian men weren't shaving their heads before prayer like they were supposed to, and the women were into shaving off all their "hair".

Then, of course, verse 6 makes no sense at all. It now seems to be saying that if a woman has **no** hair, then she should be shaved so she has **no** hair. This is absolute nonsense. Besides, the teaching that a woman's hair was her covering can never be found once amongst the early Church. Surely, it must be obvious by now that something other than the "hair" is meant here for a woman's covering.

## **But, What About This?**

It may be argued that since neither Finney, Wesley, Luther, or Calvin taught about the headcovering, why should we practice it? Some may 'hope' that these men didn't teach about it, but such is simply not the case. Of these men, some taught specifically about it, while others only wove it into their teachings on Modesty and Godly attire. Included in their teachings are exhortations to dress "exemplarily plain in your apparel; as plain as Quakers or Moravians", who, by the way, all wore headcoverings (Wesley Jour. Vol. VII pg. 116). John Wesley even stated that all Methodists should hear his "Thoughts upon Dress" read "at least once a year" (Wesley Jour. Vol. VIII pg. 307).

Truthfully, it wasn't a problem for these to practice the headcovering. They read their Bibles and preached and practiced what it said. If God said do it, they did it. If He said it was a 'Sign' to be practiced, they simply obeyed. They didn't look for some way to rationalize it away, like we do.

Even the Catholics, with all their abuses back in the dark ages, were obedient enough to practice the headcovering. Why is it so hard for us in America to

"obey God rather than man"?

One reason for this may be our off balance 20th century teachings concerning the heart and its true motives. It is true that one can act or look right and their heart still be wrong. And it is right that stress has been put on our having a Godly attitude in our heart. However, it becomes heresy when this 'stress' becomes so over-emphasized, that it is 'assumed' that the actual 'SIGN', action or appearance can be neglected. Such thinking goes far beyond 'stressing' a needed Biblical teaching.

For instance, a few years back David Wilkerson was witnessing to a group of prostitutes on the streets of New York City. During the course of his conversation, one of the girls handed him her business card. On it was a Christian fish. Using 'Christian' jargon, she proceeded to tell David how they were 'Christian' prostitutes with a faith in Jesus, their Saviour. What kind of Christianity was this? Their problem was this. Some well meaning 'preacher' had carried them one step further respecting this 'heart/motive' issue. They had been taught to 'believe' (obviously by the 3rd way of knowing anything, not their Bible) that their outside 'Actions' didn't have to match or prove the inside 'Contents' of their heart. What a sad commentary this is on our ability to take in things on 'autopilot' and teach others the same (Strike two against 'autopilot').

Another example would be this: Suppose a famous canned food manufacturer sells premium canned meat. One day the manufacturer decides, that because the "HEART" inside of the can contains premium meat, the outward "SIGN" (its label) is no longer necessary. They start shipping hundreds of these cans, full (in HEART) of wonderful, expensive meat, to their usual outlets. However, after these cans wind up on the store's shelves, do you think folks will automatically KNOW what's inside? No way! But, wait a minute. Isn't the HEART of the can right and true? Aren't the contents ever so wonderful and good? Yes, but they can still sit and rot forever, nevertheless. Why? The "HEART" of the contents will be perceived as being WORTHLESS without the label (SIGN) visible on the outside. How do the customers know what's inside and how good it is or how long it's been there? It will do no good to anyone unless, by God's providence, someone venturing out, opens one and is willing to take a **chance** that the "HEART" won't kill them if they eat it.

One more point is this: Can you imagine looking forward to a communion service coming up? Finally the day arrives. Everyone shows up, keeping in mind that they will be observing it "in remembrance of" the Lord, as He said. The meeting progresses and the time for communion finally arrives. The leader gets up and states that, since they are doing it "in remembrance of" the Lord and that it is a 'spiritual' practice, everyone should just sit in their seats and partake of it in their "HEART". He goes on to state that no one will say a word for 20 or 30 minutes. No one will pass anything out. Everyone is expected to just sit quietly, with their eyes closed, and imagine that they are being given the bread and the wine in their hearts and minds. They are to imagine that the preacher is saying the words or reading a fitting Bible passage.

Taking this one step further, instead of coming together for a communion service, everyone would be told to just stay home and 'imagine' that they're gathered together and taking communion for an hour or so. Sound like nonsense? Then why are we doing the same thing with the headcovering practice?

Isn't this what we've done in this country? We stress the need for our "HEART" to be true (and we should). However, we defeat God's work when we eliminate the "SIGN" (of modest clothing, headcoverings, Holy living) as inconsequential, over objections that it represents a legal or 'religious' spirit. "Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men..." It was these very "SIGNS" that James said were absolutely necessary in order to prove to others that I had faith in my heart. He said "...faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone", because "...I will shew thee my faith by my works."

To hear folks tell it, it's as if they fear this 'religious' spirit more than they do disobeying God. Why? Isn't it really because their friends may see their clothing, a headcovering, etc., and think they have a 'religious' spirit (the unpardonable sin, to hear folks tell it)? Actually, the truth be known, by NOT wearing a headcovering for fear of showing that we may have a 'religious' spirit only goes to prove that we, indeed, **DO** have a 'religious' or legal spirit, if we really understood what a true, 'religious' spirit is. (This is covered in another article on this subject [Here](#)).

In this country women don't cover their heads anymore for no other reason than "that's the way we do it now" or "just because we don't cover them anymore". That's about as logical as saying "I kill because I do". I've heard reasons like "that was for back then, in their time & culture", etc. Such reasoning is illogical and dishonest at best. It completely ignores the fact that even in **THIS** country, women wore them universally just over a hundred years ago. Such reasoning doesn't answer the **real** reason why it disappeared in cultures like ours. No, the real reason headcoverings have disappeared is due to the spiritual decline of the Church. It's been just over a hundred years since this nation had a major revival in the Church.

I should mention that Tom Shank has compiled a rather complete booklet on this subject. It's complete with actual woodcut and catacomb drawings of Christian women in the early Church and on past. It is titled "Let Her Be Veiled" and is still available. In it there is a very clear point that compares the practice of actually wearing a headcovering with a Communion Service. The author uses the example that since the Communion Service's bread and wine are only symbolic of Jesus' body and blood, "why not substitute for the bread and wine, Root Beer Floats and Potato Chips?"

We could go further with this reasoning, and apply it to anything. Remember the Nicolaitans (Rev. 2:6 & 15)? Remember what happened to Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5), Uzza concerning the Ark (1Chron. 13:9), and Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, who offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not (Lev. 10:1)? All were pioneers in thinking they could separate God's "HEART" principles from the prescribed "SIGN". Unfortunately, in their case, it cost them their lives. Their same faulty logic is used today to rationalize away the actual headcovering itself, because it's a symbol and "SIGN".

## **The Conclusions**

Will someone go to hell for not wearing one? The answer? 'Yes' and 'no'. This was also briefly covered in the beginning under the section titled "But What's the Big Deal about a Covering?" concerning obedience. In our crazy, mixed up American culture, it's a constant battle just to get free enough to find real Christianity.

For those who have never had to deal with this issue in their hearts, I don't believe it's a known sin to them yet. But please don't take this lightly. God, the Holy Spirit, always convicts us early on in our Christian lives (it's His job: read John 16:8-12). This question has always come up very soon after conversion, as soon as a new sister runs across 1 Corinthians 11. I can't count the number of times I've either heard them ask someone or me, concerning this subject soon after conversion. So the majority are without excuse.

Yes, it's very possible that there are women in heaven now who (like the thief on the cross) never had the time to read or hear of this command before they died. But, please remember this dear brethren: **Those who truly love God in their hearts will do anything for Him.** Those who were truly His, but died soon after conversion, before God showed them this practice's command, are most likely with Him now. Thing is, just over a century ago, no Christian woman ever had to deal with such decisions or discussions like this. Christian women already **DID** wear headcoverings. It was only the 'high' society, elite that practiced "new" fleshly ideas such as removing their veilings.

On the other hand, I don't believe any slack is deserved for those who are clever with human rationalization, logic and exegesis in figuring out ways around obeying this, once they're aware of it and God speaks to their heart. Once God speaks to us about this issue, we are accountable. So if someone persists in disobedience, the Bible says "to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin". We know that "he that committeth (practices) sin is of the devil". Consequently, "they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (James 4:17; 1John 3:8; Gal. 5:21). We must not forget that it "is" God's heaven. He makes the rules, not us. Perhaps this is part of the root problem why we wrestle with this issue of headcoverings. Today in most Churches, Christianity has become nothing more than Christianized humanism, where we "think" God will overlook our "ways" of doing what we like, and will accept us into His Holy, spotless, perfect, clean kingdom simply because He loves us.

I realize that this is a hard subject for American Christians to grasp. They've been so used to "measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves" that they have a hard time changing the way they think. That's why we have such widespread immodest dress and Antinomian\* thought in the Church today. We need to realize that we as American Christians have gotten used to being "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" while thinking that we are "rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing", but it's time to wake up. Praise our God! He has ways of helping to wake us up.

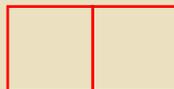
I end this with nothing but love in my heart for you all, hoping that the Lord may richly bless you.

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\*Antinomian- "Fundamental Christianity in our times is deeply influenced by that ancient enemy of righteousness, Antinomianism. The creed of the Antinomian is easily stated: We are saved by faith alone; works have no place in salvation; conduct is works, and is therefore of no importance. What we do cannot matter as long as we believe rightly. The divorce between creed and conduct is absolute and final. The question of sin is settled by the Cross; conduct is outside the circle of faith and cannot come between the believer and God.

Such in brief, is the teaching of the Antinomian. And so fully has it permeated the Fundamental element in modern Christianity that it is accepted by the religious masses as the very truth of God. [Antinomianism](#) is the doctrine of grace carried by uncorrected logic to the point of absurdity. It takes the teaching of justification by faith and twists it into deformity." - A.W. Tozer

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