

“In Harmony!”
1 Corinthians 11:11-16

Introduction:

1. As We Head Back To 1 Corinthians 11:
 - I Want Us To Think Back To Some Of What We Looked At & Learned Last Sunday!
 - 11:2-10 - Deals With “Dressing For Respect!”
 - And How That What A Christian Wears Does Display / Does Show On The Outside The Respect & Reverence You Have For The Lord On The Inside!
 - “God Does Care What Christians’ Wear!”
 - These Verses Dealt Specifically With Times Of Public Worship! For Both Men & Women!
 - Though Paul Mostly Deals With Women & The Headcoverings They Would Wear At That Time.
 - But: “God Does Care What Christians’ Wear!”
 - At Other Times As Well!
 - 1 Timothy 2:9 Talks About “Modest Apparel!”
 - But Here, In 1 Corinthians 11: The Context Is All About Authority!
 - And Our Submission To Authority In Our Lives!
 - 11:3 - Jesus Christ Is The Head Of All Men!
 - The Man Is The Head Of His Woman!
 - Just As God The Father Is The Head Of Jesus, God The Son!
 - And There Is To Be A Willing, Voluntary, Visible Submission In These Relationships!
2. One Of The Problems That Almost Always Happens:
 - When We Start Preaching On Or Teaching About:
 - Submission To Authority!
 - And Especially Submission In The Context Of Marriage & In The Church!
 - It Often Leads To Questions & To Conflict!
 - We Start To Get Chips On Our Shoulders!
 - And We Ignore What Is Being Preached Or Taught!
 - Thinking That Submission To Authority Is Something That Is Archaic & Old-Fashioned!
 - Thinking That It Is No Longer Relevant To Us Today!
 - But, As We Will See In Our Text This Morning:
 - True Submission To Authority:
 - Not Just In Actions, But In Attitudes As Well!
 - Is Something That:
 - Will Not Lead To Contention & Conflict!
 - But Instead, Will Lead To Harmony!
 - Because Things Are Functioning The Way God Meant For Them To Function!
 - Whether It Is In The Church / In The Home / In The World At Large!
 - Problems Do Not Come:
 - When You Apply Submission In Your Life!
 - Problems Come:
 - When You Don’t Apply Submission To Your Life!
 - So - In The Context Of “Dressing For Respect”:
 - When Worshiping The Lord Publically:
 - We Read In 11:11-16: “Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. / For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. / Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? / Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? / But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. / But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God!”
 - 3. Isn’t It Great When Things Are In Harmony?
 - If You’ve Ever Listened To A Professional Orchestra Play:
 - You Know What I’m Talking About!
 - Dozens Of Professional Musicians Playing Many Different Kinds Of Instruments - And Nothing Clashes!
 - Everything Is In Harmony! And It Is A Beautiful Thing To Hear!
 - But - Things Are Often Quite Different:
 - When You Listen To An Orchestra Or A Band Play At A Lower Level – Like A Jr. High Or Elementary

School!

- The Musicians Are Amateurs & Are Still Learning!
- And Although You Can Probably Make Out What They Are Playing – You Still Find Yourself Cringing A Little!
- It Is Not In Perfect Harmony!
 - And Although You Can Appreciate & Applaud The Effort Those Young & Amateur Musicians Are Putting Forth – It Is Still Nothing Like, Say, The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra!
- What We Find In Our Verses This Morning:
 - Is That When There Is True Submission In Your Heart & In Your Life – To The God-Given Authorities In Your Life!
 - You Will Find Some Harmony There As Well!
 - Because Things Are Following After The Order That God Had Originally Intended!
- What Kind Of Harmony Will There Be?

1. *Harmony In Our Dependence!*

- 11:11-12 - “Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. / For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God!”
 - Paul Knew That It Would Be Easy To Take His Teaching On Authority & Submission & Misuse & Misapply It!
 - See This All Too Often!
 - God Tells Wives To Submit To Their Husbands!
 - We Know This!
 - Ephesians 5:22 - “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord!”
 - Colossians 3:18 - “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord!”
 - So Husbands Hold This Over Their Wives’ Heads:
 - Forgetting What God Has Told Them To Do!
 - Ephesians 5:25 - “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it!”
 - Colossians 3:19 - “Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them!”
 - 1 Peter 3:7 - “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered!”
 - But When There Is True Humility & Submission In Our Hearts:
 - When The Men Submit Themselves To The Authority Of Christ In Their Lives!
 - When The Women Submit Themselves To The Authority Of The Man In Their Lives!
 - This Will Be Natural & There Will Be Harmony!
 - Because We Will Realize That We Need Each Other! And This Is The Way God Made It!
- Dependence In Our Relationships!
 - 11:11 - “Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord!”
 - God Made Men To Need The Woman!
 - God Made Women To Need The Man!
 - And Nowhere Can This Be Seen Better Than In A Christian Setting – “In The Lord!”
 - In A Christian Church Or In A Christian Family!
 - God Made It So That:
 - Through Submission & Service To One Another, You Realize That You Need Each Other!
 - To Fulfill The Plan / Purpose God Has For You!
 - Is It Any Wonder Why God Said In Genesis 2:24:
 - “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh!”
 - If There Is No Harmony In Our Dependence Upon Each Other:
 - We Will Be Incomplete & Not As Effective In Our Service To The Lord & To The World!
- Dependence In Our Roles!
 - 11:12 - “For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God!”
 - This Verse Points Back To Creation!
 - The Source Of The First Woman:
 - Was A Man!
 - God Took A Rib Out Of Adam & Formed Eve!

- Why? She Was Given As A Gift!
 - Genesis 2:18 - “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him!”
- This Was / Is The Woman’s Biblical Role!
 - To Help Her Man! Serve / Submit!
 - But We Also See In This Verse:
- The Source Of All Men:
 - Is A Woman!
 - Since Eve - Every Man That Has Existed Was Born From A Woman – Their Mother!
 - And In A Very Real Sense, Each Man Owes That Woman – Their Mother – Their Own Life!
 - And This Was / Is The Man’s Biblical Role!
 - To Honor His Women! To Love / Serve His Mother & His Wife!
 - But We Also See In This Verse:
- The Source Of All Things:
 - Is God!
 - And The Biblical Role For All Things:
 - Including & Especially Men & Women!
 - Is To Glorify & To Serve & To Follow The Lord!
- And When We See & Submit To Our Roles:
 - As Women / As Men / As People!
 - There Will Be Harmony!
- True Submission Will Lead To Harmony In Our Dependance!
 - Upon The Lord & Upon Each Other!
 - We Need The Lord & We Need Each Other!

2. ***Harmony In Our Difference!***

- 11:13 - “Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?”
- Be Discerning About Your Difference!
 - In This Verse, Paul Was Challenging The Corinthians To Think About & To Discern – To “Judge In Yourselves” – How They Were Coming To The Lord To Worship!
 - He Wanted & Expected Them To Come To The Same Conclusion That He Had!
 - Think About:
 - What You Have Learned!
 - This Is Doctrine! God’s Word!
 - How You Should Live!
 - This Is Duty!
 - And Put It Into Practice!
 - We Need To Look At How This World Worships Their Idols, And Be Discerning In How We Worship The Lord!
- Be Distinctive In Your Difference!
 - Next, Paul Asks A Question - To Get Them & Us Thinking!
 - “Is It Comely” – Or Is It Becoming – Is This The Way Things Should Be In The Church:
 - “That A Woman Pray Unto God Uncovered?”
 - Remember That In Corinth At That Time:
 - There Were Many Other Active Religions & Cults!
 - And In Some Of The Major Ones:
 - Men Would Worship Their Idols With Their Heads Covered!
 - Women Would Worship Their Idols With Their Heads Uncovered & Sometimes Even Shorn Off!
 - Even Though They Might Have Worn A Veil Or A Headcovering Everywhere Else!
 - So When Paul Was Dealing With A Woman’s Headcovering:
 - It Wasn’t As A Universal Or A Cultural Regulation!
 - It Was For Religious Reasons!
 - There Was To Be A Real Difference & A Real Distinction In How Christians Would Publically Worship God!
 - 1 Peter 2:9 - “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar

people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light!"

- "Shew Forth!"

- True Submission Will Lead To Harmony In Our Difference!

- As Christians From The World!

- There Is To Be A Difference:

- In How A Christian Worships Than How The World Worships!

- In How A Christian Woman Looks & Dresses Than How Even A Christian Man Looks & Dresses!

- And This Difference:

- Should Be Embraced & Displayed!

- As Its Been Said: "Don't Let The World Squeeze You Into Its Mold!"

- And Yet, In Many Ways, We Have!

- In Application Today - We Must See That It Is Not Becoming – It Is Not "Comely" Or Proper – For Christians To Come Together To Worship & To Pray In The Same Manner As Unbelievers!

- In A Spirit & In A Manner That Is Careless & Casual!

3. ***Harmony With Our Design!***

- 11:14-15 - "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? / But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering!"

- In These Verses, Paul Is Continuing To Look At The Importance Of Maintaining The Differences God Intended:

- Between Men & Women!

- Between Christians & The World!

- And He Looks To The Way God Even Designed:

- Men & Women!

- He Meant For There To Be A Difference!

- And When This Difference Is Blurred Or When His Own People Try To Do Away With These Differences – It Dishonors The Lord!

- God's Plan In Our Design!

- "Doth Not Even Nature Itself Teach You!"

- Not Nature - As In The Birds & The Trees!

- But Nature - As In How God Created & Made Mankind!

- God Made Men & Women With Very Real Differences!

- On January 4, 2012 - The UK Daily Mail Came Out With This Headline: "Surprise! Men & Women Really Are Different!" - This Was Based On A Study By Manchester University Psychologists - Who, After Analyzing Personality Tests In 10,000 People, Determined That Men & Women Share Just About 10% Of Their Personality Traits!

- God Designed Men & Women To Be Different!

- And Even Some In The World Have Come To Recognize This, Even Though Many Are Trying To Erase Those Differences!

- God's Plan & Design Even Reaches To The Human Hair!

- In The Way God Made Men & Women:

- Men's Hair Actually Grows Faster Than Women's Hair - Because Of The Hormone Testosterone!

- But Hair Naturally Replenishes Itself - And The Faster It Grows Out / The Sooner It Goes Out!

- 3 Phases - Growing / Resting / Shedding!

- And Even Though Men Can Grow Their Hair Quite Long & Fast, It Naturally "Sheds" Sooner & Faster Than Women!

- Our Problem With Our Design!

- Throughout History, There Have Been Men & Women Who Do Not Like The Way God Made & Designed Them!

- And Have Been Trying To Erase Those Differences & Distinctions!

- Why Paul Continues:

- "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?"

- In Most Cultures, Men Have Agreed With God's Natural Design, And Have Worn Their Hair Shorter Than Women's Hair!

- And For A Man To Have Longer Hair:

- Like A Woman's - It Was Considered A Disgrace!
- Cultures & Stigmas Change Over Time:
 - And Long Hair May Or May Not Be Considered A Disgrace By The Public!
 - But God's Design Has Not Changed!
 - And When A Man Wears His Hair Long, It Is Often A Symbol Of Rebellion Against Authority!
- Christian Men Should Wear Their Hair Shorter Than Women!
 - To Show The Difference To The World!
 - And To Show Submission To The Lord!
- The Purpose For Our Design!
 - Next, Paul Turns To The Woman:
 - 11:15 - "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering!"
 - Again, In Most Cultures, Women Have Agreed With God's Natural Design, And Have Worn Their Hair Longer Than Men's Hair!
 - And God Designed Women's Hair:
 - To Be A "Glory" For Her!
 - And To Be A "Covering" To Her!
 - Christian Women Should Wear Their Hair Longer Than Men!
 - Because It Is A Natural Symbol Of Submission!
 - But Also Because It Is A Natural Display Of Her Role As God's Gift To Her Man!
- True Submission Will Lead To Harmony With Our Design!
 - With How God Made Us & Even Designed Our Hair!
 - Often - Hair Is The First Thing People Use To Display
 - An Attitude Of Rebellion!
 - And So - Christian Men & Women:
 - Should Desire & Want To Conform To God's Design For Them!

4. ***Harmony In Our Demeanor!***

- As I Mentioned Earlier:
 - One Thing That Often Happens When Submission To Authority Is Brought Up:
 - Or When The Issues Of A Headcovering Or Wearing Shorter Or Longer Hair Are Brought Up:
 - Is Conflict & Contention!
 - "I Just Disagree!" / "I Don't Believe That!"
 - This Is Why Paul Ends This Discussion With:
 - 11:16 - "But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God!"
- Is There Contention?
 - "But If Any Man Seem To Be Contentious!"
 - This Verse Is Often Misunderstood!
 - Paul Is Not Saying That If You Disagree With What He Just Said, That You Can Choose To Ignore It!
 - Or That What He Just Wrote Was His Opinion, And Not Inspired By God!
 - No - Paul Is Saying:
 - That If You Disagree With The Principles & Practices That He Just Wrote:
 - Then It Is A Sign That You Are NOT Living Your Life In Submission To The Authorities God Placed In Your Life!
 - If There Is Any "Contention" In Your Attitude:
 - Then It Is You That Needs To Change!
 - Not The Principles & Practices In God's Word!
- Is There Compliance?
 - "We Have No Such Custom, Neither The Churches Of God!"
 - In Other Words - "Contention" Is Not The "Custom" Of Christians! Compliance Is!
 - When We Receive The Word Of God:
 - We Are To Listen / Learn / Then Live It & Obey It!
 - Submission In Our Attitudes:
 - Will Lead To Submission In Our Actions!
- True Submission Will Lead To Harmony In Our Demeanor!
 - There Will Be Peace In Ourselves & Peace With Others!

- As We Learn To Live In Humility / Honor / Harmony!

Conclusion:

1. As Beautiful As An Orchestra Playing Together In Perfect Harmony:
 - So Are God's People:
 - When They Are Living In Harmony With His Perfect Plan & Design For Their Lives!
 - Christian Men & Christian Women:
 - Submitting In Their God-Given Relationships!
 - And Serving In Their God-Given Roles!
 - And Even More:
 - It Is A Reflection Of The Submission & Service Of Jesus Christ Himself!
 - Submission To God The Father!
 - And Service To Us!
2. Remember Ephesians 5:21-33 - "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband!"
 - True Submission Will Lead To This Kind Of Harmony!

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