

GENDER MATTERS

1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16

Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

For man is not from woman, but woman from man. Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.

Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.

But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

In January 2007 the NYC Board of Health withdrew a proposal to allow people to indiscriminately change the sex on their birth certificate... A month earlier Health Commissioner, Thomas Frieden, was an enthusiastic supporter of the new policy... *Why can't people living in a free society be allowed to declare their own sex?*

But in just one month's time Frieden had changed his view. He told the NY Times that institutions like hospitals and jails raised concerns he hadn't considered. *Would male patients end up in beds next to females? Would incarcerated females be placed in jail cells with men?*

The Times quoted Frieden, "This is something we hadn't thought through, frankly. What the birth certificate shows does have implications beyond what the birth certificate shows." And let me reiterate what Frieden states, "*This is something we hadn't thought through...*"

You can make that statement not only about NYC's Board of Health, but of western civilization in general.

Sweeping changes are occurring today in our views and approach to gender. We're unleashing a pandora's box of damaging, unintended, unwanted consequences.

Gender is a subject ***we haven't thought through!***

Imagine a school were all students, male and female alike, have the right to use the girls' restroom and changing areas. Restroom access is based solely on the student's feelings, regardless of biological body parts.

Imagine, a school that insists on students wearing uniforms, but can't insure that only girls wear skirts...

Schools where boys can't be denied access to the girl's sex education class... Schools that have eliminated single-gender sports, clubs, and activities - including the hockey team... Schools that stop using "gendered" language like *mother, father, him, her, Mr., Mrs.*; and instead use "non-gendered" language like "*caregivers*" for "*parents,*" and "*partners*" for "*husband and wife...*"

Imagine, a school where the feelings of a 13 year old boy who thinks he's a girl are more important than the privacy rights of adolescent girls who don't want to change clothes with him standing in their locker room...

Well, you don't have to do much imagining - welcome to today's public schools in the city of Alberta, Canada.

And the trend is growing in our country as well.

School administrators are being forced to accept the absurd idea that innate biological and psychological differences between men and women are irrelevant. In Alberta, "*self-identification*" trumps biological reality.

How did we get here? How did this become the prevailing opinion among our educators of all people?

Well, it's been a slippery slope... First, we thought we were smarter than God, and rejected the God-ordained roles the Creator assigned to men and women - *that men should lead and that women should follow...*

Once we crossed that bridge, we denied the notion of gender in general. Sociologists no longer categorize humans as male

and female. Today, they accept a long array of “*variations*” - we once called “*perversions*.”

Think of all we've lost... God's blueprint for the sexes and the home... our appreciation of male and female... ultimately, even the belief that we have a Creator...

And if we're ever going to end the madness that's struck us, this is where we have to start... *at creation*.

We have to return to Genesis and the creation account, and embrace that God made us... In fact, He made us *male* and *female*, and has a plan for the sexes.

Gender isn't fluid, and up to our feelings. Our gender is assigned to us by God. *The proof is in the plumbing!*

In the home and in the church God wants men to be men and women to be women - *that statement is packed with meaning, but it includes the roles we should play...*

Men should lead - be the head in the home and in the church. And women should be happy to follow their lead.

This is Paul's word to the Corinthians in Chapter 11.

He takes them to Genesis and creation, and explains how the roles of male and female apply to us today.

Paul begins in verse 2, “**Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.**” Paul is forever optimistic. If they had recalled “*all*” that he taught them there wouldn't be so many problems in this church.

He's hoping that now they'll take heed to his letter.

Remember, someone in the church at Corinth had written to Paul while he was in Ephesus, and asked him a series of questions... Beginning in Chapter 6 Paul started answering those questions... *should they sue each other in the pagan courts... what about sex... what should be their attitude toward marriage and singleness... could they eat meat sacrificed to idols?...*

Now in Chapter 11 Paul takes up a series of questions related to the assembly of the church. The next four chapters address abuses that were occurring in their public meetings. **The Corinthians had some questions about what should and should not go on in church...**

Paul will talk about the practice of communion, and the proper use of spiritual gifts, specifically tongues...

But first the apostle discusses authority in the church. He tackles the touchy subject of gender - the roles of men and women in the Christian church and home.

Paul dives right in. He declares, verse 3, **“But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”**

Realize, authority is important to God. He *designates roles and establishes rank*. A quick peek at nature and you'll see God created all life with order and structure.

Canvass nature and anytime you find two heads on one body, it's not a good situation. It's an anomaly, a defect, a deviation. It's not the way God intended.

“All Chiefs and no Indians” isn't order - it's chaos.

Our Creator definitely has a chain of command. *Here it is...*
God the Father is head over Christ Jesus - Christ is head over the man - and man is head over his wife.

Realize, the fact that *God the Father* is head over *God the Son* doesn't diminish Jesus in anyway, or make him inferior... Likewise a man's headship in the home and in the church doesn't diminish a woman.

To the contrary, women should grow, and flower, and flourish under the care of loving and unselfish men.

In fact, the only decline in equality in God's authority structure is between Christ and the man. *God the Father* and *God the Son* are equal in nature and importance, but different in the roles they play.

Deuteronomy 6:4 is the great Jewish call to worship.

It began each of the Hebrew holy days. The ancient priest would cry to God's people, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!" The Hebrew word translated "one" is "echad." But it's a compound unity.

My fist is an "echad" - one fist, yet five fingers.

Throughout the Bible we're taught there is only one God, but the one God exists in three distinct persons: *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*. Christians refer to this truth as "the triune nature of God"... or the **Trinity**.

And each member of the Godhead has a specific role He assumes... The *Father* sits on the throne in heaven, as sovereign over creation. - The *Son* comes to earth and becomes a man to redeem and save. -

The *Spirit* takes up where Jesus leaves off. He points people to the Son. The Holy Spirit lives within the believing heart and imparts God's power.

All three members of the Godhead are equal in importance - but distinct in the role that they play.

The fact the Son submits to the Father, and the Spirit promotes the Son, doesn't make the Son inferior to the Father, or the Spirit is less divine than the Son.

All three members of the Trinity - Father, Son, and Spirit - are equal in nature, but distinct in their role.

And there is no competition or friction within this arrangement. The Son doesn't complain, "*Oh, the Father is worshipped, while I suffer on a cross...*"

The Spirit doesn't buck for more attention - "*Why do I have to lead people to Jesus? Can't I grab a few headlines of My own?*" You never see the members of the Trinity question or complain about their roles.

And this is the attitude God expects in the Christian home and church. Here is one of the ways humans were made in God's image. The relationship between the sexes should display the harmony and oneness of the Triune God. As the Son voluntarily submitted His will to the Father, a man should submit his life to Jesus, and his wife should live in submission to her husband.

Again, as the Father and Son are equal, likewise the husband and wife are equal in nature and importance, but they are distinct in the roles that they play.

Actually, I'm not sure it's accurate to say the wife is equal to her husband. Most wives are superior...

It's been said, "If you don't believe women are more advanced than men, just watch a man and woman both wrap a Christmas present!" It's true, most women have smarts and skills that outshine most men.

Realize, a woman's submission to her husband has nothing to do with any sort of inferiority on her part. It's her acceptance of the role that God has appointed her.

In verse 4 Paul begins to describe what headship and submission looks like in the Corinthian church.

"Every man praying or prophesying, having *his head covered, dishonors his head.*" If you've ever been with me to Israel you're probably surprised by this verse.

In Israel you learn that Jewish men refuse to pray or step on holy ground without wearing a yarmulke - a skull cap. When a Gentile prays at Jerusalem's Wailing Wall the authorities provide you a paper cap to cover your head. The yarmulke is a reminder to the Jews that someone is over them. They're under God's authority.

This is why it's strange to hear a Jewish rabbi, like Paul, make this statement, "*every man... having his head covered, dishonors his head.*" Remember, Paul isn't writing to Jews, but to Gentiles - to Greeks.

And Greek custom was opposite Jewish tradition.

When a man entered a pagan temple to worship an idol, he wrapped his toga over his head. In Corinth, a Christian

praying with his head covered would send the wrong message. It would associate him with idols.

To the contrary, a Christian man needed no head-covering, *for he had Christ as his covering...* Jesus has given us authority to come boldly to God's throne of grace. When we pray there's nothing hindering us from approaching God's throne. Jesus is interceding for us.

Jesus was now *Head* or *Lord* over Christian men.

That meant for the Corinthians to pray under a robe was dishonoring to their Head, Jesus - and it sent the wrong message to their idol-worshipping neighbors.

Today, in our western culture, as in Corinth, when a Christian man takes off his cap to pray it's a show of respect. He's acknowledging Jesus to be over him.

But the opposite applied to the Christian women in Corinth. Verse 5, **"But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head..."** First, realize that women must've participated in the worship of the Church at Corinth. They prayed and exercised spiritual gifts. At times they prophesied or uttered spontaneous messages from the Holy Spirit.

What they didn't do was serve as pastor and teach men! In 1 Timothy 2:11-12 Paul is clear, **"Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence."** That silence is in regards to teaching, for here Paul allows the women to pray and prophesy.

But *how they did it*, is what Paul is addressing here.

In Corinth, Christian men prayed uncovered, but Christian women covered their heads. At the time, all Oriental women wore their hair long, and under a veil.

This veil wasn't like the heavy burka worn by Muslim women today. It was a light shawl that draped over her head. In first century Corinth the veil was a symbol that the woman wearing it was under submission. That she was under the authority of a husband or a father.

The only women in Corinth who wore short hair, or ventured into public without a veil were prostitutes. A shaved head was often part of a call girl's punishment.

Thus, Paul warns the Christian women in Corinth if they drop the veil... **at worst** they'll be mistaken as hookers... **at best** they'll be considered by their friends as disrespectful to their husbands. Paul writes, "for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved."

We learned in Chapters 8-10 that the Corinthians were enjoying their liberties in Christ. This must also have been true of the Christians sisters in the Church.

In the pagan world of old - even in Judaism - and certainly in the Muslim world today - women were considered little more than the man's personal property. A wife was treated a notch above a slave.

It was Christianity that ennobled and elevated the status of women. It's ironic that when we study these passages, some folks accuse Paul of *male chauvinism* or call him a "*misogynist*." That couldn't be further from the truth. Paul did

more for women's rights than all the bra-burners and women-libbers combined.

Paul wrote in Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ..."

This was a revolutionary statement that echoed loudly throughout the ancient world. In Christ these women had experienced a new parity. Christian women were equal with Christian men in terms of their acceptance, their significance, even their giftedness.

But equal does not mean same.

God not only made male and female, but He assigned to each gender complementary roles for them to embrace. In fact, their faith would be tested by their compliance and obedience to their own specific roles.

Realize, the point Paul is making in our text.

It's not that he cares whether a man remembers to take off his hat before he prays... *or how dare a Christian woman be seen in church without a veil...*

In and of itself, the hat or veil meant very little.

But culturally these were both symbols that spoke to the pagans of Corinth. What mattered to Paul was *male headship* and *female submission* - not hats and veils. But unless the Christians recognized and complied with these cultural symbols they would send the wrong message to unsaved family and friends.

Remember Paul's point in these chapters. At times a Christian should curtail his or her freedom for the sake of their witness. The ladies of Corinth were free to shed their veils, and the men could pray covered, but what message would that send to the surrounding culture?

It would *confuse*, not *convict*. They'd be conveying the exact opposite of what God wanted them to model.

So for the sake of the Gospel, Paul suggests the Corinthian women keep the scarf on their head, and the men take off their hats when they pray. If not, their heart and attitude will be misunderstood by the culture.

Now if Paul were writing about headship and submission to us, today, would he talk about *head scarfs on women* and *hats on men*? *Of course not...*

In modern, western culture a woman's relationship to her husband is not what you think of when you see a head scarf. Today, a head scarf is a fashion statement.

Or it can mean the woman wearing it just didn't have time to style her hair... A guy wearing a hat is probably covering up his bald spot - not some evil idolatry...

In 21st century America the *customs* have changed, but the *biblical principles* have not. **Cultural symbols** may vary, but **creation principles** remain the same.

If Paul wrote to us today he'd talk to the ladies about taking their husband's last name, instead of keeping their own, or hyphenating it... he'd encourage a young woman to require her fiance' to ask her parent's permission before marrying him... and wearing his wedding ring... and putting his name

first on the checks... and consulting him before major decisions...

Or whatever our culture would recognize as an display of submission and respect for a husband.

And if Paul were writing to men he'd tell us to open the door for our wife... and scrape the ice off her windshield... and take in the groceries... and take out the trash... and stand between her and the traffic when we're walking with her in the parking lot... These are symbolic expressions that we're taking care of our wife!

Or whatever the culture would expect from a man!

Headship and submission are **creation principles**.

Whereas, head scarves, last names, wedding rings, opening doors, and scraping ice are **cultural symbols**.

But God wants Christian men and women to affirm His timeless truths with our own cultural expressions.

In fact, our willingness to conform our *cultural liberties* to *biblical priorities* reveals an obedient heart!

Paul has very little tolerance for the haughty attitude that says *it's all about me*. "*I can do as I please even if I'm misunderstood.*" As I said last week, if you take seriously your call to be a ambassador for Christ, it does matter what people think of you and your actions!

In verse 6 Paul says to these calloused Corinthians, "**For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn.**"

He's being sarcastic, *but not by much*. He's telling these ladies "*If you want to go without a head scarf, then why not*

just shave your head" - that would be communicating the same message to your community.

He continues, "But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved (and it is), let her be covered.

For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man." Here's a profound statement...

Both men and women were made in God's image, but it's the man, not the woman, who reflects His glory.

God is thrilled, He glories, in a man who rises up and leads. It brings God glory when Christian men use their God-given authority to better the lives of their family, and neighbors, and church. A godly man who leads well brings God great pleasure. He becomes God's pride and joy. A man who leads is *the glory of God*.

Not so, when a woman steps up and leads. It means there's a woman who has failed to acknowledge her God-given role, **or** she's been forced to lead in the absence of a negligent husband. The woman may be doing what she needs to do, but either way when a wife leads it means a shameful thing has happened!

It brings God *no glory*, if there's a man who's let God and his family down. *A selfish man or a defiant woman* is an embarrassment to God - certainly not "*a glory*."

Paul says in verse 7, "For man is not from woman, but woman from man." Eve was made from a rib that God took from Adam's side. Actually, in Hebrew the word means

“*something curved.*” We assume it was a rib, but it could’ve been a muscle or some cartilage.

It just sounds more romantic to say *a rib!*

“**Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.**” God noticed that it was not good for the man to be alone, so He created a helper for him. I doubt if many moms of young kids would ever say “*it’s not good to be alone.*” They’re dying for some *alone time.*

But leave a man alone for very long, and he’ll become lost. He’ll get slack. He’ll stumble into trouble.

At the prayer breakfast yesterday, Mark Lawson told me that his wife, Mary Lou, has been gone for a week.

Mark was anxious to get her home, and was headed to the airport to pick her up - but he told us, “**First, I need to go home and take a bath.**” She’s only been gone a week and the ole boy hasn’t bothered to bathe.

I’m telling you, the woman was created for the man, not vice versa. We husbands need our wives far more than they need us. It’s not good for a man to be alone!

But there’s something else here in the order of God’s creation: Man was first, *and this has great significance.*

Throughout the Bible special prerogatives, and rights, and authority were given to the firstborn.

When the family patriarch died, it was his firstborn who took his place, and became head of the family.

Firstborn status was a *special honor*, but it came with a *heavy responsibility.* Later, when sin enters the world, though

it's Eve who sinned first, God held the man responsible. Sin corrupts because of Adam, not Eve.

In God's set-up **the buck stops with the buck.**

Even though sin came into the human family through Eve, God held Adam responsible for the consequences of her actions. In short, this is biblical headship - **it's taking responsibility for stuff that is not my fault.**

It's loving my wife and kids, and laying down my life for my family, even when they sin and make mistakes.

Perhaps your wife brought a lot of baggage into your marriage - a real man doesn't resent it, *he takes responsibility for what's not his fault.* He loves his wife.

Rather than remind her of her failures, he seeks to heal her wounds, and make her life better. **He's like Jesus to his wife.** He loves her until she's lovable.

This is why the woman is the glory of man!

When you find a wife who's happy, and holy, and prospering, and blossoming it's because there's a man in her life who's like Jesus. She's a credit to his caring, and nurturing, and love. ***"Woman is the glory of man!"***

And as if this passage wasn't tricky enough, check out verse 10, ***"For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels."*** *What do angels have to do with gender roles?*

Well, let me make a couple of observations...

First, we know angels have a high regard for rank and order. When the archangel, Lucifer, bucked God's chain of

command, he got the boot! The Lord threw him out of heaven. Authority matters to the angels!

There's much that angels glean from gender roles.

Angels learn of God's love, and the Gospel, and redemption - by how you and I treat our spouse.

Don't ever say, "*My marriage doesn't matter. It's a trivial pursuit.*" You might just end up with a burly, beefy, battle-hardened angel in your face telling you just the opposite. Gender roles speak to angels.

Here's another observation, when I fight with my wife I don't generally think of the impact it's having on the angels. I wonder if my neighbors heard us... or if we upset the kids... *but angels don't pop into my mind.*

Yet, perhaps they should. Realize, what goes on in your marriage has a far broader effect than you think.

We get myopic. We think marriage is primarily about me - *it's not! **You*** are way down on the priority list.

Marriage is about health and stability for future generations. It's about a strong fabric for society - and safety in the streets - and spiritual truth in high places.

I was once told, "*The best thing I can do for my kids is to love their mom.*" That's good, but it's too narrow. Loving my wife is the best contribution I can make to the culture, and my community, and God's kingdom.

On the other hand, divorce is not only a sin against your spouse and kids. It's a sin against God, and the Church, and

the Christian way of life, and your fellow man, and future generations, *and even the angels*.

Divorce is not a sniper's rifle aimed precisely at one person. It's a pipe bomb blast that sprays a wide radius, and damages stuff you never meant to target.

Stop being so stubborn, you're upsetting the angels!

And after speaking of each gender's individual roles, Paul talks about their dependence... **“Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.”**

At home and in church women should be under the authority of a husband, or a male pastor, but that male should never flaunt or misuse his authority.

The woman follows the man, but the man originates with the woman. **When a man enters the world he already owes a woman nine months room and board.** Thank your mom! *Without women there'd be no men.*

The man isn't greater than the woman because he's the leader. We're *different in roles*, but *equal in nature and value*. **Gender roles are an ordered equality.**

And Paul keeps his foot on the pedal in verse 13. **“Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.”**

Wow, this chapter is really getting hairy!

Apparently, prior to modern wedding rings - prior to Corinthian shawls - *prior to any cultural symbol* - God ingrained into nature certain symbols of submission.

And one symbol is *the length of a person's hair*.

In most cultures, women wear their hair longer than men. Even in Israel, Jewish men trim their hair.

Samson stuck out because he had taken a vow to never allow a razor to touch his hair. His vow would've been meaningless, if most men didn't cut their hair.

In general, women are able to grow long beautiful hair. Men lose their hair at an early age. **Men are known for their short hair - women for their long hair.**

And it's interesting, how *the length of a person's hair* can reveal *the state of that person's heart*. It's not always the case - there're exceptions - but more often than not, the length of a person's hair says something about their attitude toward authority and submission.

In 1960s when young men bucked the establishment the symbol of their rebellion was long hair. This doesn't mean every man who grows his hair out is in rebellion to authority, but generally it makes a statement...

In the 1970s when women's liberation was redefining roles between the sexes radical feminists expressed their defiance to tradition by cutting their hair short.

Does this mean every gal with a bob is a feminist? *No!* But women also make statements with their hair.

This past week journalist Megyn Kelly moderated the Republican debate. She was confrontational and feisty. She was ready to spar with a stage-full of Alpha males.

And how did she prepare? She cut off her long hair.

She needed to project authority and power, so she came to the debate with a masculine looking haircut.

An article I read about Megyn's new do, said most TV news outlets require female anchors to have shorter hair. It conveys a more authoritative image.

Now I don't want us to get too hung up here - some men grow their hair long just because they just like it long. Some women cut their hair because its easier.

It's also true that the terms "*long*" and "*short*" are relative. *What is long hair?* Well, it depends on the particular culture - or even the people in the marriage.

Since I've been married I've always tried to keep my hair shorter than my wife's hair. To me that sends the right signals. In fact, I didn't want to confuse any angels this morning, so this past week I got a haircut.

But there's an even bigger issue here... God created gender. Masculinity and femininity are not just social constructs or conditioning. Our gender is in our genes.

God made men to look, and act, and think, and dress and talk like men. While God fashioned women to look, and act, and think, and dress and talk like women.

God created male and female, and He wants us to be extremely careful that we not blur His distinctions.

If the culture recognizes certain hairstyles as masculine and feminine; then respect the culture. Men should cut their hair like men and women like women.

The same goes for garments. If there're clothes the culture defines as masculine and feminine then we should dress accordingly. By doing so, we teach the people around us that God created us male and female, and that gender matters... to God and to us.

Of course, if I were living in Scotland I might wear a kilt. The Scots consider kilts to be masculine. *But if I did wear a kilt I'd definitely carry a shotgun.* But in Georgia a kilt is a frilly skirt. And I'm don't wear skirts.

Guys shouldn't wear girl-pants, and girls shouldn't wear man-clothes. There's a lot of latitude in our application of this, *but realize the principle!* Women should look feminine, and men should look masculine.

We need to respect the gender God has assigned to each of us. Deuteronomy 22:5 makes it crystal clear, "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God."

Again, lest this gets *hairier* than it needs to be, let me balance it out a bit. Recall 1 Samuel 16:7, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." What's most important to God is our heart, not our appearance. God works on us from the inside out.

He changes our heart, and that effects the rest of us.

Paul is saying here, that not just culture, but nature also reinforces God's creative order! Let's respect the gender differences and roles that God has ordained.

I love what Lorraine Nestor once told me, "Oh for the day, when men were men, and women were proud of it." This should be the motto in every church and family.

I love how Paul finishes up this discussion on gender. He writes in verse 16, "But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God." In other words, he's not going to argue with the Corinthians over what he's just taught.

This issue boils down to authority. And sadly, people today have lots of problems with authority... *Citizens don't respect the government's authority. Students don't respect their teachers. Children lack respect for their parents. Employees disrespect their employers. People on the streets have no respect for the police.*

Even Christians have little respect for the Church.

The world we live in is rushing toward anarchy. And Paul is saying the first step back to sanity is a return to creation. God made us male and female, and until we recognize and submit to God's design for gender, we'll never have any respect for any other type of authority.

There're a million "what ifs," and a zillion *exceptions to the rule*, you can use to justify why these truths don't apply to you. But that doesn't change Paul's point!

God created the sexes, and specific roles for each gender - and He wants all of us to respect His creation.

This is not Paul's opinion. It's not my opinion. It's not anybody's opinions... It's God's design and decree.

If you've got a problem with it, take it up with God! But in our church and in my marriage I plan to obey!