

“But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God”.

The Apostle was anxious to communicate the structure of the divinely organised hierarchy which was not new but a repetition and reinforcement of what had already been taught before under inspiration. The tiered arrangement is a clear structure which is not given in order from the top to the bottom or the bottom to the top. The position of the hierarchy indicated first, starts at the middle and then goes downwards and ends with the upwards position. There must be a reason for this method of presentation. If it was us we would probably just do a list in strict order of authority but it was not done that way.

The relationship between every man (mankind) and Christ is the starting point. God sadly is more remote from us than He should be. This is our fault not His fault. He dwells in unapproachable light, but He does want His children to draw near to Him, He wants His children to understand. “Come let us reason together” also Isaiah 55v1-3. Accordingly, we need to start with that fundamental relationship which we can more easily appreciate and interact with. Jesus communicated with God in a way we can do also, but he also had an extra advantage in direct revelation and inspiration than we do. This meant he was tested fuller and deeper than we ever will be, as to whom much is given much is expected. The place of the sexes is important to align with the Biblical position. We should have no shame in the way our Sisters are treated in the Bible. It is in a much better way than the Koran teaches – that the way to improve your wife is to beat her with a stick – and modern democracies have nothing on us. Our sisters were voting in Ecclesial ballots in the UK and America, decades before women were reluctantly given the vote in the 20th century. Yes, they do not fulfil certain offices, but they have different but equally important roles to engage with, within the confines of Biblical Truth. In the Kingdom Sister will also be rulers and priests not just the brethren, so we should remember that this hierarchy is temporary and is not Edenic but is a consequence of the fall. Christ became necessary only after the fall of man. God knew that Adam would fail, but the status of men and women changed after Eve gave in to the deception and Adam chose siding with a sinner or siding with God. He was not deceived as his wife was.

This is a restatement of the consistent teaching of the scriptures and not a new doctrine. Jesus the Messiah was always positioned above other men but subservient to God. The most cited Old Testament verse demonstrates this, Psalm 110v1 “Yahweh saith unto my adon”. Here we have God Himself, Yahweh, King David the me of the Psalm, being the writer of the Psalm, and David’s Lord or Adon who although his son was greater than him, which of course refers to the yet unborn Jesus. Woman was put under the male or husband from the time of the fall, Genesis 3v16 “*he shall rule over thee*”. A father is also to be given respect by all children not just the daughters. Just as the mother should also be honoured for all that she has done and does for the family.

The hierarchy is expanded by the separation of mankind into the male and the female. The original statement that the head of every man being Christ, is not sex orientated. Man is really mankind in general and should not be limited to the male sex. Every man,

rather than (just) man is the qualification used by the spirit to communicate this. So, the head of every woman is also Christ as well as the male sex of which he is the paragon. All men are made in the image of God, but few seek to realise that potential and maximise the opportunity of life with which we are blessed by responding in love to the Creator of us all.

Thus, when a woman neglects to cover her head as the passage teaches, she dishonours her head, being both her man, husband or father, as well as Christ who is also her head. See verse 5. In a similar way the man who prays or prophesies (witness and worship) having his head uncovered, dishonours his head which is Christ. Emphasis is often exclusively given to sisters' head coverings, but it is just as necessary to ensure that the brethren heads are uncovered (no bandages, no hats nor wigs) as it is to ensure that the sisters heads are covered. We can lose sight of this.

God is male, and because of this the males are distinctly in the image and glory of God in a way that the sisters are not. There is more to being male than appearance. The male traits of God should be reflected in the Brethren. If they are not reflected by application to God manifestation in their lives, it is to their shame.

Other passages of scripture which support the structure of this hierarchy can be helpfully considered.

The Head of Christ is God:

1 Corinthians 15v28 The Son also himself be subject unto Him

John 10v18 This commandment have I received of my Father

Revelation 3v12 My God...my God....my God....my God (the heavenly Jesus).

John 5v30 I can of my own self do nothing the will of the Father which sent me

The Head of every man is Christ

Hebrews 4v15 Tempted in all points yet without sin

Hebrews 1v3 Who being the brightness of His glory the express image of His person

Colossians 1v18 He is the head of the body, in all things he (hath) the pre-eminence

Revelation 5v8 Fell down before the lamb

The head of the woman is the man

1 Timothy 2v12 I suffer not a woman to teach nor to usurp authority over the man

Ephesians 5v22 Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord

1 Corinthians 14v34 Let your women keep silence in the Ecclesias

This is not an exhaustive list and if others want to suggest other verses which can be used in support of these teachings, I would welcome any additional references.