

9th January 2025

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 order of hierarchy

God, then Christ, then man and then woman. We note the order of hierarchy, but notice also that this is not the order the words are actually put in the sentence.

Deduced Hierarchy:

God > Christ > Man > Woman.

But written as:

 of man = Christ  of woman = man  of Christ = God

It appears in the sentence that the head of man is the main subject, with the other headships added for comparison and contrast. There is a reason for this.

Temporary Arrangement

It must be realised that the hierarchy mentioned in I Corinthians 11 is a temporary arrangement. It is not permanent, and is only an imposition, structure designed to teach, limit and control for the duration of man's mortal life, until the day of the *restitution of all things*.

It is like the imposition of death, of the need for coverings, and the separation from God. All of these elements and limitations are directly as a result of sin. Before sin, there was not the same hierarchy as there was no requirement for separation between the Elohim and man and woman, nor did they need to even wear clothes.

Original Arrangement

 of man and woman = God

Before the fall, Headship, or hierarchy was simple: God then Adam. When Eve was created it was God and then Adam and Eve. Eve, though created from Adam did not occupy a lesser role in any way. She was fashioned from his rib, and as therefore a clone - *this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh* said Adam at the time. They were One, and in complete unity. Eve was created an help, meet or suitable for Adam. Perfectly designed to complement, develop and enhance him in every way. They were described as very good. Adam was not given any extra authority over his wife, any extra power, no added advantage in any way – except one – if it can be described as an advantage – maybe it is better described as a responsibility.

He was given the information, the restriction of the access to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He had to explain this effectively and accurately to his wife, along with the consequences of disobedience.

Before the Fall, the Edenic paradise was one of unity. God had spoken. His Word had brought about a multitude, as a result of His creative Spirit, and Wisdom. His purpose, His design with the Earth, had commenced. His Name Yahweh Elohim was defined albeit in a limited way – I will be manifest in a multitude. The couple were instructed together to be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth, to subdue and have dominion over every living thing. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

This original state must be considered. It was as God described as very good. The harmony which existed between God and man and the wider creation was exactly as God created it. The company and presence of Yahweh was familiar to the couple, so

that they could even sense His presence walking in the garden though His voice alone. There was an order to the creation, and Adam and Woman (as she was then called) were there to maintain that order and all dominion was given to him. Adam and Woman were a reflection of the glory of God. They were as One.

This scenario and original circumstance must be appreciated and remembered in this discussion of Headship. God, then Adam and Woman. Two levels.

Headship as described in 1 Corinthians is temporary and artificial scaffolding, which has inserted two additional levels of hierarchy so that there are 4 levels. This temporary arrangement was put in place as a direct consequence of the sin committed in Eden.

This was designed to assist and teach in the overall plan and purpose of God, to not just get back to the original Edenic paradise of unity and harmony but also to continue and accomplish the original plan and purpose for His Name to manifest in a Multitude.

Adam as the first created man was to be a teacher to his wife, in as much as sharing the communication from the Elohim. The Woman was to absorb and act upon that teaching, and they together would be the shining glorification of God, the peak of His creation.

Everything changed because of disobedience.

The first additional level of hierarchy or Headship to be added to



the original two was

of woman = man

It was not until after the fall from grace, through sin, which caused a separation and a distancing from God.

Because of sin, the woman was cursed: part of the curse is described in Genesis 3:16 *in sorrow you shall bring forth children; and your desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over you.*

This curse was not permission for the man to dominate and bully and control his wife, or woman- or any women for that matter, although it has of course been a feature of human history ever since that day.

[Side note: The NET Bible has this comment which is relevant: *The Hebrew verb מָשַׁל (mashal) means “to rule over,” but in a way that emphasizes powerful control, domination, or mastery. This also is part of the baser human nature. The translation assumes the imperfect verb form has an objective/indicative sense here. Another option is to understand it as having a modal, desiderative nuance, “but he will want to dominate you.” In this case, the Lord simply announces the struggle without indicating who will emerge victorious.*]

However, the history of the world through many civilisations has shown that the majority of men have exerted control, domination and a mastery of their wives, misusing and abusing them. There are even many examples in scripture of how women, have in a fallen world and where the love of God is absent, been taken advantage of, and been treated with disrespect. Indeed, the western world in which we live, much of the bemoaned women’s liberation movement, is a direct result of the lack of respect, and esteem given to women by men for centuries. The idea of domination, and control has been most definitely a feature of the sinfulness of the cruelty of men, taking advantage because of their greater physical strength, and louder voices and more violent characteristics.

This is not the headship the Scriptures speak about, and has nothing to do with the teaching of the Gospel, and nowhere in scripture is the fairer sex to be regarded in any way as less important. Sadly, false religion has so much to answer for in the subjugation of women, and inequality between the sexes. Islam from its very beginning features abuse and exploitation of women. The Roman Catholic Church for centuries taught the inferiority of women.

It is not part of the Gospel, and is against the will of God, and a perversion of His intentions.

It is because generations of the sons of Adam have acted exactly like Adam, and failed to protect, care and teach their wives, and saw Headship as an opportunity to indulge their own wickedness. See Genesis 6: 2: *That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose*. Not portrayed as a loving meeting of minds, but a sense of entitlement and physical lustfulness on the part of the men.

This is why very quickly the all-knowing God installed another level of Headship in the order and arrangement of things.

The Second Adam

 of man= Christ

The woman was beguiled (2 Corinthians 11:3) and she was first in the transgression, (1 Timothy 2:14) and instead of being a help meet did the opposite and was a temptress. She was therefore condemned first, and because she abrogated her role, and contradicted God, God placed her husband as her head. To be subject to him, and submit. Though the saying is true- two heads are better than one, in the circumstance of a partnership dealing with life contending against serpent reasoning, the headship of man was designed to ensure that the man took responsibility for

decisions, and communicate clearly and effectively the will of God, to limit deception going forward – not to exploit and bully. But the lack of qualification of man to be an effective head was immediately apparent.

Though he was given rule over his wife, Adam was forced to concede he had introduced death, but that the Woman was the vehicle chosen by God to give life. He then called Woman – Eve – because she was the mother of all living. It was also in the curse given to Eve, that a Promise of future salvation was preached.

Genesis 3:15: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

It would be the Seed of the Woman – not the sons of Adam, which would overcome the serpent reasoning, the manifestation of the domineering, bullying coercive and violent human nature seen in the sons of men. It would be the Anointed Saviour the Son of God, the second Adam who would show true leadership, responsibility, and Headship.

Thus in the Gospel message seen from the time of Noah, through to the promised seed through the patriarchs, the giving of the law of Moses, through the Psalms and prophets, the shining example of the Perfect Man, the Peak of the Creation, the First Begotten of the Father, the First and Last, presents the Saviour as one who would save his Woman, not through domineering and violence, or weak inaction, or shouting over his wife, but would save his wife through self-sacrifice and love.

Thus the institution of marriage from the very beginning, even depicts how God intends the Adam to treat his wife. The Second Adam, confronted the serpent reasoning, and did not blame others as Adam did, but he took the blame upon himself, and while we were yet sinners died for us. He died for his woman.

The Lord Jesus gave his life for his woman. That is how he has shown true leadership, true Headship. Because he has given all, his death, enabled the woman to have new life, and she was taken Out Man. – Woman. The Bride of Christ is fashioned from his Body just as Woman was made from Adam's rib. Through his resurrection, believers are baptised to start a new life as One Ecclesia – Ephesians 5: 30-32 *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.*

This is the ideal designed from the very beginning. That those who resist the whispers of the serpent reasoning can reside in Unity as One Body in harmony with their Christ, and in the presence of the Elohim, in the garden enclosed (Song 4:12) To them will be given a Kingdom, they will be fruitful and replenish the earth, they will subdue and have dominion over every living thing. This is what God has made possible though the introduction of this additional level – Christ as Head.

When that Kingdom is finally established the temporary arrangements of the Headship of Christ, and the Headship of man will be removed- as the Lord Jesus explained Matthew 22:30: *For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.* The Apostle states moreover that Galatians 3:28: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.* Jesus prayed in John 17: 21 *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

That unity and Oneness will be fulfilled at the consummation after the time of Judgement with the giving of immortality and the complete freedom from sin. – Man, Woman, Christ as One – ruling together as the 24 elders, 4 living ones, the Little Stone. 2 levels – the Multitude – and Yahweh. Yahweh Elohim.

What about now in the meantime?

But what about now – we are still under sin. The Ecclesia exists in a fallen state. Although we have been shown the way back into the garden, the only way to the Tree of Life is to allow the flaming sword turning every way, to purge us of our sins, for the Old Adamic man to die, to allow the Word of God to reform our characters into responsive Eve's eager to listen to the Second Adam and not be deceived.

This is why the Apostle teaches for the Woman to be silent at times when the Ecclesia is gathered together, and why she must cover her hair. It is not just to teach her to be submissive to the brothers, as some have liked to emphasise. It is to teach the whole Ecclesia, brothers and sisters alike that we as an Ecclesia must be subject to Christ, to acknowledge he is the Head of the Body, our Head, and is our decisionmaker. The sisters through these symbolic signs of deference – which in themselves are highly significant are to show the Brothers how they must behave. Every member to submit to one another. More ready to give than receive. More ready to hear than speak. Not to attempt to be the leader by dominating, but to lead through gentle kindness and example. To show self sacrifice – just as the mothers of Israel have done always. The covering of the glory of the Head of man is most significant - The head-coverings of the woman, amongst other teachings also show the inadequacy of the Headship of the natural man over the natural women. Brothers are not capable of redeeming their Sisters. As sons of Adam we are all dependant

upon the Certain Man, the Redeemer, the One who laid down his life for his Brethren.

Perhaps now we might understand why I Corinthians 11:3 is written in the order it is. Man who has the biggest problem with headship is the leading subject. Man is the one who tends to forget his place.

Brother Terry