

# THE BIBLICAL HEAD COVERING

## Introduction

To our creator and savior Jesus Christ be the glory for our lives, his infinite mercies and his unconditional love. I would be very grateful if with your bible by your side you would join me in this expository discussion about **THE HEAD COVERING**.

The apostle Paul writes in **2Cor 11:2** and **Eph 5:26-27** that, the church should be one without spot or wrinkle but should be holy without blemish. This presupposes that the church must have the right and all necessary doctrines to meet perfection. Unless the church is perfect, she can never be the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. So for these reasons I find it very necessary and urgent to tackle the doctrine of **HEAD COVERING** which many churches today misinterpret to suit their own conveniences and culture.

Note that the bible must be read carefully and it takes the holy spirit of the almighty Jesus Christ to understand every piece because it was written through the inspiration of God (**2 Tim 3:16**).

## Head Covering for Christian Women

According to the prophet Isaiah, the Lord would do away with certain ornaments and dresses:

*“in that day the lord shall take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet and their cauls and their round tires like the moon.v19 the chains ... and the mufflers v20 ... and the headbands (anything worn around or over the head), and the tablets and the earring. Isa 3:18-20*

The prophecy of Ezekiel however confirms that of Isaiah: an indication that the New Testament dress code of the Christian woman does not include the artificial veil-artificial covering.

*“Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them,<sup>18</sup> And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the women that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you?<sup>19</sup> And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies?<sup>20</sup> Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms, and will let the souls go, even the souls that ye hunt to make them fly.<sup>21</sup> Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and ye shall know that I am the LORD”.* **Ezekiel 13:17-21**

With Paul’s epistle to the Corinthians, the covering of the woman is her sign of authority and her honour but dishonours a man. Let’s do a critical study on **1Cor 11:3-16**



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*“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**”.v3*

In this verse Paul was on headship-authority and not a covering meant for the head.

*“Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head”.v4*

Paul in verse 4 speaks on a Christian man, whose duties are prayers and prophesying (teachings). He mentions the fact that, a man dishonours his head-Christ when he covers his head-body.

*“But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven”.v5*

The Christian woman whose duty is to pray and prophesy is referred to in this verse. This time, if the woman does not cover her **head-body**; she dishonours her **head-man**. Her act of not covering her head means she is like a shaven-man. (Shaven is the past participle of shave which means, cutting close to the skin or in effect baldness. Therefore been not covered also means been shaven- cutting of the hair entirely.

*“For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered”.v6 note: revelation 9:8*

Paul means if a woman cuts her hair, by not allowing it to grow long-not being covered, she should shear her hair: like the shorn women do.

Shorn is the past participle of shear which means cutting off the hair. That is why Paul says: if a woman cuts her hair, let her shear (behave like the shorn women, depicting whoredom, shame etc). But if it is a shame for the woman to be shaven or shorn, let her grow her hair long.

*“For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man”.v7*

A man does not need long hair-covering of the head because he is the image and glory of God. But the woman is the glory of a man. The man delights in the long hair (covering of the head) of the woman.

*“For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man”.v8*

*“Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man”.v9*

Verses 8 and 9 indicate that, the woman wears long hair (covering of the head) for the man so that she does not look like her head-man

*“For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels”.v10*

*“Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord”.v11*

*“For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God”.v12*



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From these three verses, it can be deduced that, the covering of the woman (her long hair) is her power and authority before angels. Her power is derived from her natural long hair just like Sampson's.-*Judges 13:5*

*"Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?"v13*

A very big question is then asked: is it good for a Christian woman to be shaven or shorn, you judge.

*"Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?"v14 ref: vs4*

Now getting to the concluding part of this piece, Paul asks if naturally it is good for a man to wear long hair- covering of the head. The word **"even"** as used is in reference to something which has already been said. He says if you did not get my concept, don't you see naturally that long hair is not meant for a man?

*"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering".V15 ref: vs5*

Now listen to Paul as he concludes: the long hair which dishonours a man is a glory to the woman-verses 4 and 5 because her long hair- not shaven or shorn is her covering. Full stop

*"But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God".v16*

Christians who still contend on this issue of the head covering do so at their own peril because it was not the custom of the apostles and will never be the custom of the church of God today.

**Now let's try and answer the following questions.**

1. Did Paul mention any material like the African veil which is a cultural costume as a covering for the woman?
2. Did Paul talk about double covering-covering of the head and covering of the hair?
3. Do Christians all over the world other than African Christians know about the veil?
4. Do angels identify woman with their veils, could the veil be the power of the woman? (v10)
5. When women with long hair choose to cover their head with veil, is their hair not still exposed if the idea is to cover hair and not the head?
6. Does the bible permit the Christian woman to be shorn or shaven and use veil to cover her head if it pleases her?

**What does it mean to be uncovered?**

According to Paul, if the woman is not covered, then she is either shorn or shaven.

1. "Shorn" – it is the past participle of shear (done with shearer).lets analyse the Greek and Hebrew meanings of the word by the strong concordance.

**The Greek word used here is keiró: which means to shear**

**Original Word:** κείρω

**Part of Speech:** Verb



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**Transliteration:** keiró

**Phonetic Spelling:** (ki'-ro)

**Short Definition:** I shear, cut the hair of

**Definition:** I shear, cut the hair of; mid: I cut my own hair, have my hair cut.

**The Hebrew word used here is gazaz:which means to shear**

**Original Word:** גָּזַז

**Part of Speech:** Verb

**Transliteration:** gazaz

**Phonetic Spelling:** (gaw-zaz')

**Short Definition:** off

According to the strong's exhaustive concordance, These meanings of the word have been used variously in the bible to mean cut off, poll, shave, shearer. A primitive root (akin to [guwz](#)); to cut off; specifically to shear a flock or shave the hair; figuratively to destroy an enemy -- cut off (down), poll, shave, ((sheep-)) shear(-er). Some examples are: [Acts 8:32](#) , [18:18](#) , [1 Corinthians 11:6](#) , [Genesis 31:19](#) , [38:12](#) , [13](#) , [Deuteronomy 15:19](#) , [1 Samuel 25:2](#) , [4](#) , [7](#) , [11](#) , [2 Samuel 13:23](#) , [24](#) , [Job 1:20](#) , [Isaiah 53:7](#) , [Jeremiah 7:29](#) , [Micah 1:16](#) , [Nahum 1:12](#)

2. "Shaven"-it is the past participle of shave (often done with a razor). Let's analyse the Greek and Hebrew meanings of the word by the strong concordance.

**The greek word used here is xurao: which means I shave**

**Original Word:** ξυράω

**Part of Speech:** Verb

**Transliteration:** xurao

**Phonetic Spelling:** (xoo-rah'-o)

**Short Definition:** I shave

**Definition:** I shave, shear, cut off the hair.

**The Hebrew word used here is galach: which means to be bald, shave, shave off**

**Original Word:** גָּלַח

**Part of Speech:** Verb

**Transliteration:** galach

**Phonetic Spelling:** (gaw-lakh')

**Short Definition:** shave

From the strong's exhaustive concordance, the Greek and Hebrew usages have their meanings as depriving one of hair. To be shaved as a woman was a sign of shame. A primitive root; properly, to be bald, i.e. (causatively) to shave; figuratively to lay waste -- poll, shave (off).some examples are:

[Genesis 41:14](#) , [Leviticus 13:33](#) , [14:8,9](#) , [21:5](#) , [Numbers 6:9](#) , [18](#) , [19](#) , [Deuteronomy 21:12](#) , [Judges 16:17](#) , [19](#) , [22](#) , [2 Samuel 10:4](#) , [14:26](#) , [1 Chronicles 19:4](#) , [Isaiah 7:20](#) , [Jeremiah 41:5](#) , [Ezekiel 44:20](#) , [Acts 21:24](#) , [1 Corinthians 11:5](#) 6

## Commentaries



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Long, uncut **HAIR** is called a **COVERING**. While some insist the woman's head covering is a piece of *cloth* (usually *white*), one could have just as much Biblical support that the *head covering* is instead a *brown hat*, a *blue scarf*, a *fig leaf*, etc., since there is *absolutely no Scriptural defense* for any of these either. To elevate a man-made tradition to a *salvation* issue is **DEADLY** for the preacher and those who are so deceived (Gal. 1:8, 9). Go by the Bible alone any you'll be safe (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

A man must not be covered (with uncut hair) so that he accurately depicts himself in the image of God - not needing a covering. If a man refuses to cut his hair, he is depicting himself as covered. **THAT** is a woman's position. A man is inaccurately depicting himself in a woman's role when he refuses to cut his hair. Moreover, Paul specifically says that it is a shame for a man to have **LONG** hair. **EVEN** if a man's hair is cut, **IT MUST NOT BE LONG**. A man's hair must be short. If professing Christians celebrate a man with long hair, they are contradicting the very teachings of the Bible, and offending God with self-serving interests.

Not one woman in a million is proud to be bald. Almost without exception, women who lose their hair because of medical reasons wear wigs or hats to avoid embarrassment or unnecessary attention. For thousands of years, women everywhere wore uncut hair. Women who cut their hair had a bad reputation. Hollywood glorified such women and styles, but the Bible still instructs all women to wear long uncut hair. Paul said that shorn hair equals shaven, and that means **UNCOVERED**. Paul made it clear that when her hair is shorn, it is tantamount to being bald. Only **UNCUT** hair is considered a covering.

Uncut Hair affirms a Woman's power with Angels. The Holy Angels can only do as commanded by God. They have no power or will to do otherwise. On earth, "are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14). What could prevent an angel from ministering to a woman if she is an heir of salvation? The angels' authority is somehow tied to the woman's "power on her head." What is on a woman's head but her hair? Does an angel consider a woman to be in disobedience or insubordination if she cuts her hair? Is the angel unable to minister to her as he may have otherwise?

Long uncut hair should say that this is a woman. Cut hair should say that this is a man. According to Paul's teachings; a woman who cuts her hair is associating with the masculine role. A man who does not cut his hair is associating with the feminine role. As such, either case becomes an abomination in the eyes of God. Ultimately, the betrayal of God's commandments about hair length contributes to the sexual identity crisis that we now have today - an explosion of lesbianism and homosexuality!( credit:[www.kenraggio.com](http://www.kenraggio.com))

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