

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper:

2. Jeff listed 6 reasons 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 is a particularly challenging passage. What makes this passage uniquely difficult? In spite of these challenges, why are the principles laid out in this passage critical for us to understand?
3. Throughout this passage, Paul refers to head coverings (vv. 4-7, 13-15). What kind of "covering" is Paul talking about? What are the two major options? Regardless of what they were, why would Paul be especially concerned about the decorum of men and women during corporate worship? Why might the Corinthians have been "contentious" (v. 16) about this issue?
4. Paul speaks of heads literally (vv. 4-6), and figuratively (see v. 3). What's the relationship between figurative "headship," and how men and women adorn their heads? How does Genesis 1-2 inform what Paul is saying here? How does this help us understand his point in vv. 7-8 about the different ways husbands and wives reflect glory?

Application:

5. In speaking to how men and women should adorn themselves, Paul appeals to what is "proper" (v. 13), what nature teaches (v. 14), and to common "practice" (or "custom"; v. 16). Does Paul think that creation itself requires specific patterns of dress for men and women? If not, what is he saying? How might Paul's principle inform the way we dress in our culture?
6. What implications does this passage have for how spouses show public honor to each other?
7. Why must a Christian understanding of gender and sexuality start with theology (rather than biology, sociology, or psychology)? How does a theological vision guide the way we think through current debates about gender and sexuality?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?