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Women, Get a Head Covering, or Don't

By Taylor Braswell on April 13, 2026

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 11

I once heard a biblical scholar say that 1 Corinthians 11:1-15 is one of the most difficult passages to interpret in all of the New Testament. Is Paul saying that Christian women must wear head coverings and that Christian men can't? Is he saying women cannot have short hair and that men cannot have long hair?

To answer these questions, we must distinguish between the principle and the custom. For example, in Luke 10:4, when Jesus is sending out His followers on mission, He says, *"Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road"*. Obviously, Jesus was not commanding all Christians for all time to do barefoot evangelism! I can take my wallet with me, and I can talk to people out in public, even when I am on mission. Why? The principle Jesus was trying to get across to His followers in that context was to rely on God and not get distracted. The custom in 1 Corinthians 11 was women wearing head coverings, which may have been seen as immodest and disrespectful in Corinth. For men, the opposite was true. Furthermore, this was blurring the lines of God's created order and roles for men and women in the Church. Paul's concern was not about women having fabric on their heads; it was about maintaining a distinction between men and women. Paul also wanted worship to be orderly and not confusing. Remember, Jesus submits to the Father, not because He is less than, but because the Son and the Father have different roles. We are created in God's image, and we must celebrate the differences between men and women.

In our culture today, "long" and "short" hair are subjective. As long as someone is not trying to change their whole appearance to imitate another gender, there is room for discernment in this matter. Some denominations even take this passage literally, and I am fine with that. Paul grounds his argument in Genesis, which suggests this is not just cultural. But, I think the principle behind the custom is not cultural. The head covering is cultural, in my opinion. As long as those who are in favor of head coverings today are not saying anyone who disagrees with them is in sin, I think there is room for interpretation in this passage.

Instead of asking, "Should women wear head coverings?" we should be asking ourselves, "Am I living in a way that honors God's design and brings Him glory?" Remember church, God's truth does not change, but that truth can look different in different contexts throughout history. Ask yourself these questions today:

- Do my choices reflect humility and honor toward God?
- Do I respect the roles and design God has created?
- Do my actions in public and in worship point people toward Christ or toward myself?
- Am I more focused on outward appearance or inward obedience?

God is not just after external compliance; He's after a heart that reflects His order, beauty, and truth.

PRAYER: God, thank You for Your Word. Through Your Spirit, help me see beyond outward appearances so that I understand the heart of what You want for my life. Help me to live according to Your design.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Corinthians 12

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One Body, Many Gifts

By Taylor Braswell on April 14, 2026

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 12

The Holy Spirit gives believers a variety of gifts for the “common good” and not for individual status. Christians have held differing views on some of these gifts throughout church history, and many pastors, scholars, and theologians today still disagree on them (there is room for healthy debate here). Some of these gifts are often referred to as “sign gifts” or “apostolic” gifts. These include: healing, miracles, tongues, and prophecy. There are two main views on these types of gifts: 1) The view that these gifts ceased with the death of the apostles (cessationism). 2) The view that these gifts continue today (continuationism). Other gifts, such as serving, teaching, encouraging, and mercy, are generally agreed upon by Christians to be active today. Other places where spiritual gifts are mentioned outside of this passage include: Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:10-11, and many others. I could write an entire essay trying to convince you of my view on some of these gifts (cessationist), but we do not have time today. Email me at tbraswell@fbcfm.com if you want book or video recommendations on this topic.

I want us to see three things in the rest of this passage:

1. Every Christian belongs in the body (vs 12-13). There are no bench players on this team, ladies and gentlemen! If you are a Christian, God has given you gifts through His Spirit. If you want to find out what gift you might have, I can email you a great Spiritual Gifts test!
2. Every Christian is important and needed (vs 14-20). We shouldn't compare ourselves to others within the church or think that we are better than anyone else just because we are gifted differently. God didn't design you by accident. You are uniquely gifted to serve His church! You may just need to talk to a pastor to find out where you fit in.
3. Christians must care for one another (vs 21-26). You are not self-sufficient. God created us in his image, and because God is three in one, he is a perfect community in and of himself. We need each other.

Questions to ask yourself today:

–Am I comparing my gifts to others, or am I content with how God has uniquely gifted me? –Do I know what my spiritual gifts are? –Do I view my gifts as an opportunity to serve others?

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for making me part of Your body through the blood of Christ. Humble me through Your Spirit and use me to serve others. Help me to encourage others to use their gifts and conform me more today to the image of Christ.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Corinthians 13



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The Love Checklist

By Taylor Braswell on April 15, 2026

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 13

Paul builds off Chapter 12 and reminds us that we can have every spiritual gift known to man, but without love, they are worthless. This means we can be busy doing a lot and even serving the church while missing the whole point. Love is not an add on to our spiritual gifts, it is the foundation of the Christian life. What does it mean to love, though? When we use our spiritual gifts, how do we know whether we are being loving? Loving others is more than being nice or doing what we think will help others; it's pointing them to Christ. Paul gives us a checklist of ten things to ask ourselves:

1. Am I **patient** when people are slow to change?
2. Am I **kind** when it would be easier to be harsh?
3. Do I often **envy** or compare myself to others?
4. Do I often **boast** or seek attention?
5. Am I **arrogant** or self-focused?
6. Am I **rude** or dismissive?
7. Do I often **insist on my own way**?
8. Am I **irritable** or easily angered?
9. Do I keep **records of wrongs**?
10. Do I rejoice in truth and not in wrongdoing?

When we think about loving others, we must first consider how Christ loved us and gave Himself for us. Another good question to ask yourself is, "Am I showing people what Christ is like?" Spiritual gifts will pass away, but how we love others has an eternal impact! Instead of focusing on being right, we need to be focused on loving others. Our spiritual maturity is not measured by how much we know or do, but by how we love others.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for loving me perfectly, even when I fall short. Thank You for showing me what love is in Christ Jesus. Teach me to love the way You love and help me get rid of my pride today. Empower me through Your Spirit to point others to Christ, even when it is difficult.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Corinthians 14

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A Church Service That Builds Up

By Taylor Braswell on April 16, 2026

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 14

Here are five takeaways from this chapter:

- 1) Christians must build up the church (vv. 1-5). Regardless of what you believe about tongues and prophecy being active today or not, Paul says that all of it must be done to build up the church. The problem I have with “tongues” being used today in churches is that it is distracting and does not build anyone up (not to mention we could get multiple “interpreters” and they would all say the same thing they are hearing means something different). Prophecy here means encouraging, convicting, comforting, building up, and proclaiming the word of God, not predicting the future. Paul says in this chapter that prophecy is always instructive and understandable. Everything we do for the church must build each other up!
- 2) Christians must be clear, not confusing (vv. 6-10). If people cannot understand our preaching or singing, they cannot be built up by it.
- 3) Christians think maturely (vv. 20-25). I love the phrase Paul uses in verse 20: “Be infants in evil.” Like a baby, we should not be participating in sin, and we should be inexperienced when it comes to evil.
- 4) Church services should build Christians up (vv. 26-33). Paul makes it clear that order, not chaos, is needed to build one another up (another reason why rolling around on the ground and screaming is not helpful in a church service). This does not mean that our services should be lifeless, though; they should be purposeful! Paul reminds us that our God is not a God of confusion.
- 5) How we worship matters (vv. 34-40). There are many views on verses 34-35, but two common ones are that Paul is specifically forbidding women from being disruptive during a certain part of the gathering. Paul assumes women would speak earlier in 1 Corinthians 11. The other view is that this is tied to teaching/exercising authority over men. Regardless of your view on this, Paul makes it clear that our worship should be ordered, understandable, and honoring to God.

PRAYER: Lord, help me to pursue love above all else. Give me a heart that seeks to build others up in everything I say and do. Teach me to value clarity, humility, and order in how I serve You. Guard me from pride or self-focus and help me reflect Your peace. Let my life and my words point others clearly to You.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Corinthians 15



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The Resurrection Is Everything

By Taylor Braswell on April 17, 2026

TODAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 15

Here are six reminders today from this chapter:

1. We all need to be reminded of the gospel (vv 1-11). The Christian faith is not built upon our feelings or ideas; it is built upon real historical events. Paul reminds us of the witnesses who saw Jesus after His resurrection. Paul also reminds us that the gospel has transformed us (vs 10).
2. The resurrection gives us hope in this life and the next (vv 12-19). Nothing we are doing matters if Christ did not rise from the dead. We have hope because His resurrection secures our future!
3. One day, there will be no more death (vv 20-28). Jesus is called the “firstfruits” because his resurrection is the beginning of what will happen to all those who are in Christ.
4. We will have new bodies one day (vv 35-49). God will make all things new, and we will experience perfected bodies in the new heaven and new earth!
5. You win because Christ has won (vv 50-57). God gives you all of this, not of your own merit, but because of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.
6. Our lives should reflect our future reality in Christ (vs 58). Paul commands us to be immovable and steadfast! Nothing that happens to us in this life should distract us from doing what God has called us to do. We know that nothing is wasted in this life because God is using all things to make us more like Christ. Our obedience to God proves we are his children, and our labor has eternal value.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You that Jesus rose from the dead and conquered sin and death. Help me to live in light of that truth every day. Give me hope when I feel discouraged and strength to remain steadfast in serving You. Remind me that my life has eternal purpose because of the resurrection. Fix my eyes on what is to come.

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: 1 Corinthians 16

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