

1 Corinthians 11 and women's veils?

Wearing a veil is not a precept of the Eternal, but a custom of the nations. In the Bible, women wear a veil in certain situations, but the Hebrew people and their community were bareheaded most of the time. In his letter to the Corinthians, the outstanding Jewish apostle Paul of Tarsus does not write specifically about the veiling of women in the assembly, but rather wishes to set the record straight by first mentioning that men should not cover their heads.

1Corinthians 11:3-4 But I wish you to know that the Christ is the head of every man, but woman's head *is* the man, and the Christ's head God. Every man praying or prophesying, having *anything* on his head, puts his head to shame.

In his letter he does not want to create a lapidary formula about a veil on the head of women, the subject is more complex than that. If someone wore a kind of toga to cover his head in the assembly, it could not have been a man. I insist that Paul fought against sexual immorality and the destruction of the genders because he was under the law of the Messiah, the essential commandments of the Eternal engraved on his heart by the holy breath (the Holy Spirit). Paul had written to the Corinthians a little earlier:

1Corinthians 6:9 Do ye not know that unrighteous *persons* shall not inherit *the* kingdom of God? Do not err: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate*, nor who abuse themselves with men,

1Corinthians 6:10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor abusive persons, nor *the* rapacious, shall inherit *the* kingdom of God.

*Passive, receptive like a woman. Weakness of mind through openness to all kinds of sexual attractions.

Leviticus 18:22-23 And thou shalt not lie with mankind as one lieth with a woman: it is an abomination. And thou shalt lie with no beast to become unclean therewith; and a woman shall not stand before a beast to lie down with it: it is confusion.

Deuteronomy 22:5 There shall not be a man's apparel on a woman, neither shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever doeth so is an abomination to Jehovah thy God.

A woman who wears her husband's jacket because it's cold, or wears trousers to help him in the garden, is obviously not breaking the law of Deuteronomy. A man who puts on a hood because it's raining, wears his long hair tied back (perhaps resembling dreadlocks) and uses a rubber band to tie his hair back is also not breaking God's instructions. The important thing was not to confuse the genders, as certain peoples did in their customs and traditions (idolatry, traditional festivals, etc.).
2King 17:12 and they served idols, as to which Jehovah had said to them, Ye shall not do this thing.

The male Adam has not found a male Adam, but a female Adam. She is the only being who can truly unite with him in every way. Feelings for a mother or a friend are not an excuse to transgress the meaning of creation in the name of love, there are many ways to love. God's temple is holy and it is the man who penetrates the veil to enter the Holy of Holies. The woman has the glory of the first (man) on her head, because his glory has been given to her and shared with her, so that she becomes his guardian angel and his complement.

Genesis 2:20 And Man gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the heavens, and to every beast of the field; but as for Adam, he found no helpmate, his like.

Science has shown that women's hair grows twice as fast as men's. This is no coincidence. It's not to say that men can't have long hair, but that women's hair is generally longer than men's. It's a sign and this sign can have different meanings (loose hair for a relationship, hairstyles for an event...), including in the assembly in the presence of the Eternal.

The woman must have a simple, natural appearance in the assembly.

[1Corinthians 11:14-15](#) Does not even nature itself teach you, that man, if he have long hair, it is a dishonour to him? But woman, if she have long hair, *it is* glory to her; for the long hair is given *to her* in lieu of a veil.

The Nazirite vow is irrelevant in this context. It is obvious that the Jewish apostle was aware of the law requiring men to grow their hair for a vow. In general, all men cut their hair to fulfil this vow. And if a Samson were to pray in a congregation, he would have no problem with his hair. He would look like a man, showing his face and his curly hair, probably tied back.

[Number 6:5](#) All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head; until the days be fulfilled, that he hath consecrated himself to Jehovah, he shall be holy; he shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.

Conclusion:

- No commandment and precepts of the Eternal imposes the veil on women; it is a human custom.
- Paul reminds us of the need for order in creation to combat bad customs and immorality.
- If the group wishes to maintain a custom in meetings, it is absolutely not up to the man to cover his head. The man must physically and symbolically resemble a man, and the woman must resemble a woman.
- Women part their hair and wear a scarf if their hair does not cover their head because it has been cut or shaved. Hairstyle, neck and jewellery are also not shown.
If she is ill, she may wear a veil, adornments and a wig.
- A woman should not wear a veil every day for various reasons (married women, the gaze of other men, the vow of chastity...) which do not take precedence over Paul's encouragement to keep a long natural head of hair which is given to her by the veil. The woman should therefore let her hair grow and not periodically smother this glory on her head.
- Paul's teaching is timeless; we find the same problems in our society.
- The Nazirite Law is irrelevant; most men end up cutting their hair.