



Bearing God's Image

By F.T. Paterson

It has been in God's mind from the dawn of creation, that man, the pinnacle of his creation should be formed in His image. On the day that He made man from the dust of the earth He declared that He would make him in the image and likeness of God and give him dominion over His creation.

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Gen 1:26-27, NIV).

Out of the dust of the earth God created all living creatures and man was the only one that God said would bear His image and likeness. Even though man was created from the dust of the earth the same as every other living creature he was not in the likeness of the beasts but in the image and likeness of God. He was created with a twofold purpose; to bear the image and likeness of God and to have dominion over the creation. It is an awesome responsibility to rule and reign over the creation of God. Man, for the most part, has

abdicated his responsibility in these areas but in these last days God is bringing forth a people after His image who will take the responsibility of rulership over His creation. In this article I will concentrate on bearing the image of God as I believe the area of dominion is best left for another time. It should be evident that the image in which we are created is not an earthly form but rather an expression of the character and nature of God. God has no form that we can see or approach.

*"God will bring about in his own time-God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom **no one has seen or can see.** To him be honor and might forever" Amen (1 Tim 6:15-16, NIV).*

*"**No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us" (1 John 4:12, NIV).***

*"And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. **You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,**" (John 5:37, NIV).*

Man, in his futile search for the meaning of his existence, has attempted to capture God in

objects of wood and stone. He has endeavoured to encapsulate the majesty and glory of God in an image that his feeble mind can visualize and understand, apparently not knowing that He who fills the whole of creation cannot be represented by such things. Rather than being formed in the image and likeness of God, mankind is trying to form God into their own image.

*"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools **and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles" (Rom 1:20-23, NIV).***

An image is only a representation of the real; it has no soul or spirit and does not have the ability to function in any way. Isaiah tells of a man making an idol. He selects a tree and uses part of it to cook his meal and warm

himself and of the rest he makes a god and falls down and worships it.

“Such stupidity and ignorance! God has shut their eyes so that they cannot see and closed their minds from understanding. The man never stops to think or figure out, ‘Why, it’s just a block of wood! I’ve burned it for heat and used it to bake my bread and roast my meat. How can the rest of it be a god? Should I fall down before a chunk of wood?’” (Isa 44:18-19, TLB).

God’s humour is evident as he ridicules the ignorance of men in the following scripture; *“And there stands their god like a helpless scarecrow in a garden! It cannot speak, and it must be carried, for it cannot walk” (Jer 10:5, TLB).*

Yet for all the evidence brought forth mankind still carried on in their willful way trying to create an image that would represent God. We may feel that we are beyond this now because we live in an enlightened age, after all it is the 21st century and idolatry is a thing of the past. However, today men are still trying to create the image of God in themselves. They may not use wood or stone but they try to create a god after their own image as they bring forth their concepts and ideas claiming they are from God. When God said that He would make man in His image He placed in man the potential to be a partaker of the divine nature.

*“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:3-4, KJV).*

God chose us to be conformed to the image of His son before the foundation of the world (Rom 8:29). To be conformed carries the

meaning of taking on the attributes of, to be made like, or to be Christ-like. He has given the five fold ministry for the perfecting of the saints. This is not speaking about being without fault but rather to be in the process of growing in Christ. To grow in perfectness means rather to grow in maturity and to be in the process of being created, in a greater measure, into the image and likeness of God.

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.” (Eph 4:13,15, KJV).

From an earthly image to a heavenly.

“And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly” (1 Cor 15:49, KJV).

Now we see an image clouded by the earthly but the image is clearing and the day will come when the clouds will be cleared away and the image of the heavenly will stand forth sharp and clear.

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (2 Cor 3:18, NIV).

As children often bear the characteristics of their parents, so by our born-again experience we will bear the image and characteristics of our spiritual birth. This does not happen all at once even as a child may not display the attributes of the parents right away. I have seen someone walk at a distance or heard the way they talk and they reminded me of their parents. Their actions and mannerisms were inbred and even as little children some of these characteristics came to the forefront. We had a neighbour boy

who, as long as I can remember walked and talked like his dad and the older he became the more pronounced were the similarities. I have not seen him for a few years now but I am sure that even in his looks he would be, as we say, “the spitting image of his father.” This is true of natural birth; we receive the characteristics of our natural parents. When we are born-again our character comes forth, not of the natural but of the spiritual. We grow up into that spiritual image as by the Spirit of the Lord.

*“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, **we shall be like him**, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure” (1 John 3:2-3, NIV).*

We are destined to take on the characteristics of Christ, to be formed in his image. We have by our natural birth taken on at least some of the characteristics of our parents. We, by our spiritual birth, are being formed in the image of Christ.

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Rom 8:29, KJV).

Jesus was and is in the image of the Father.

“Jesus answered: ‘Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?’” (John 14:9-10, NIV).

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he

sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven” (Heb 1:3, NIV).

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!” (Phil 2:5-8, NIV).

There are possibly many reasons Jesus came that we are not even aware of but of prime importance to us is that He came to reveal the Father to us. He identified with humanity by becoming like us in all points yet without sin (Heb. 4:15). He left the realm of glory, laying aside His deity and taking on the frailties of the flesh. He gave of Himself unto the death of the cross that He might redeem His creation and by that redemption gave us the unspeakable privilege of growing up into the image and likeness of God, which was God’s desire when He created man. Jesus is the express image of God, He said, “if you have seen me you have seen the Father” (John 14:9). He only spoke the words from his father (John 14:10).

Being formed in the image of God is not by our good works or any effort on our part but by the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

“Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me: ‘O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?’ declares the LORD. ‘Like clay in the hand of

the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.’” (Jer 18:2-7, NIV).

“You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘He did not make me’? Can the pot say of the potter, ‘He knows nothing’”? (Isa 29:16, NIV).

Jeremiah was instructed to go down to the potter’s house and observe how a vessel was formed. He formed a vessel, it was flawed, so he broke it down and formed it again. It would seem possibly that this might happen more than once, working on the wheel, and removing the flaws until the vessel is without flaw. It is the flaws in our lives that keep us from walking with the Lord in perfection. In our Christian life we are on God’s wheel of perfection. If we will allow Him to remove the flaws, attributes of the carnal nature, from our lives we will be formed in His likeness. It is not by our effort, that is true, but it does require willingness on our part to be placed on God’s potters wheel. Not only willingness is required but faithfulness and obedience to the will of God.

“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.” (Rev 17:14, KJV).

The call has gone out to every man, woman, and child from the dawn of creation until the present time.

“For he longs for all to be saved and to understand this truth.” (1 Tim 2:4-5, TLB).

We are chosen as we receive the call and accept Christ as our personal saviour. We are formed in His image as we are faithful and obedient to His calling. Trials and tribulations may not be to our liking but they are necessary for spiritual growth. If we take them in

the right attitude they produce spiritual maturity.

“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” (Rom 5:3-5, KJV).

Reading the same in the Phillips translation:

“This doesn’t mean, of course, that we have only a hope of future joys - we can be full of joy here and now even in our trials and troubles. Taken in the right spirit these very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character, and a character of this sort produces a steady hope, a hope that will never disappoint us. Already we have some experience of the love of God flooding through our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us.” (Rom.5:3-5, Phillips).

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:” (1 Peter 1:7, KJV).

What is the measure of spirituality in our lives?

This is a question that has been much on my heart as well as in the thoughts of others also. As I meditated I sensed that our lives are much like a fruit tree; it grows day by day, the forces of maturity growing within but to the observer the only evidence of growth is that it is getting bigger. There are forces within it that are maturing until the day that we see a bud appear, the bud flowers and fruit appears. The fruit may be immature at first but as the tree matures the fruit matures also until it is a mature fruit - producing tree. Our Christian lives bear a resemblance to this also. As immature Christians

our fruit may not be visible but as we mature in the Lord the fruit of the Spirit becomes more visible. Our Christian life is one of growth and that should be the pattern for our lives. The life that flows in the vine is the life that needs to flow in our lives so we can bring forth fruit. We cannot bear fruit on our own, we bear the fruit but we do not produce it.

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:4-5, KJV).

It would seem to me that a measure of spirituality would be the fruit that is evident in our lives. The fruit of the Spirit, notice it is the **fruit of the Spirit (KJV) not the fruits of the Spirit**. This implies that all of the fruits mentioned in the following scripture should be evident in our lives.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law” (Gal 5:22-23, NIV).

The Christian virtues of 2 Peter 1 are also another measure of Spirituality.

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance,

godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love” (2 Peter 1:3-7, NIV).

I am convinced that this fruit and these virtues will be evident in those that bear the mature image of God.

“For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins” (2 Peter 1:8-9, NIV).

We are in the process of growing up into the head, even Christ (Eph 4:15).

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2, KJV).

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (2 Cor 3:18, NIV).

We live in an age in which the forces of evil are being unleashed upon the earth. The pillars of morality and decency are eroded and even the forces of nature break forth in mighty torrents of destruction unleashing the fury of tropical storms, earthquakes and volcanoes upon the earth. Men’s hearts fail them for fear because of the advent of terrorism. Darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. Everything that can be shaken will be shaken so that which cannot be shaken may remain (Heb. 12:27). Surely it is time to seek the Lord.

“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon

you” (Hos 10:12, KJV).

There are two seasons of rain spoken about in scripture, the early - or first rain and the latter - or harvest rain. The first rain came around November when they sowed the seed and caused the seed to germinate. The latter rain came around April in the spring near harvest time to nourish the crop for the harvest. Spiritually speaking the early, or - former rain is a partial fulfilment of Joel’s prophecy;

“Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately,” (Joel 2:23) and refers, I believe, to the pouring out of the Spirit at Pentecost up until this present day. The fulfilment of this prophecy is yet to come, when God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh. This is a time when we will experience all the glory of the former days combined with the glory of the latter days. “...and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month” (Joel 2:23).

God is removing all things that will hinder the establishing of His Kingdom and restoring that which has been lost from the time of the early church. The latter rain refers to the denouement of the ages, the manifestation of the sons of God and the ushering in of the Kingdom of God. The time when the faithful saints of God shall truly be partakers of the Divine nature and stand revealed to the world in the image of God. The time is upon us when The Lord will restore the years that the locust’s have destroyed;

“And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath

dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed” (Joel 2:25-26, KJV).

Darkness is looming on the horizon of this present evil age but the Godly see a glimmer of light arising in the east.

“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do

this, saith the LORD of hosts” (Mal 4:2-3, KJV).

“...when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28, KJV).

The purpose of God which has been veiled in mystery is now being revealed to those who desire to enter fully into all God has for them. The mist is clearing and we see the purpose of the ages being fulfilled before our very eyes. That which God created man for, to be formed in the image of God,

is now appearing upon the horizon of a new day; the day of the Lord; a day in which the sons of God will deliver the creation from the tyranny of change and decay. Praise the Lord !

“Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth” (Hos 6:3, KJV).

Even so Lord Jesus come!

Head Covering

I was sitting in a coffee shop trying to answer multiple “questions for the elder” by a newcomer to our assembly. The issue of head coverings came up. I said, “It probably appears strange to you that the ladies have head coverings on.” He said, “Not really, because I remember reading about it somewhere in the Bible. But, what I did notice was that a couple ladies didn’t wear coverings. I thought to myself, ‘There are a couple of ladies that aren’t doing what the other ladies are,’ and I wondered why.”

I’d spoken earlier with another newcomer who asked why the ladies have a “plant holder” (doily) on their heads. A lady who has attended services for a while said, “I just wear a head covering because I know it’s part of this church, and I want to be part of it, but I wish I knew what the purpose was exactly.” These are all good questions for which we should be ready to give an answer. I too had questions and wanted to know why I believed what we believe.

I think the best way to do that is by analyzing the scripture. Most of the scriptural reference is found in 1 Corinthians 11.

Satan loves to alter God’s pattern for things. He’s continually trying to interfere with God’s order for the Church, which, in turn, will cause

confusion. Early in his creation God divided us into two genders. It was established that way from day one, or, actually, day six. There’s no doubt about it, males and females are different in so many ways, different anatomy, different chemistry, different personality traits, etc. We’re different in so many ways, but we’re equal. No gender is more important than the other. For instance, which is more important, a police officer or a fire fighter? Well, both are equally important, but they have completely different roles, or offices. Similarly, men and women have different offices, but both are equal in God’s eyes. God created both in His image, equal but different. From early on, humans understand this difference. Just try telling a boy he looks like a girl and see what reaction you get. Ask a five-year-old if two men should get married, and he/she won’t even have to think about it. It’s innately obvious to them.

It’s built-in to us that the two sexes are different and have different roles in spite of what some social movements may teach. The world’s view of men and women is becoming blurred at both extremes, from radical religious beliefs on one end, to radical feminist beliefs on the other. The good news is that while the world is becoming more

blurred and degenerate, God’s Kingdom and truths are being established with greater strength and will eventually cover the whole earth.

Two topics are essential to understand head coverings: **GLORY** and **PRIESTHOOD**. Let’s see what God’s word says about the topic of head coverings. The primary reference is 1 Corinthians 11: 1-7, NIV.

1 Cor. 11:1, “Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.” Paul is getting his information from Christ – a good source!

1 Cor. 11:2, “I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the TEACHINGS just as I passed them on to you.” The emphasis is on a TEACHING from Christ, not just a tradition or custom. For example, a man wearing a tie is a custom, not a teaching.

Fashions are customs, but a head covering is different – much more than a custom, it’s actually like a spiritual license, as we will see later.

1 Cor. 11:3, “Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.” When I picture this order, I envision a solar system – a circular flat plane, like a record (or DVD nowadays) – where God is the

center, like our sun, and all of the planets revolve around Him. God's light (or glory) shines outward and is reflected back to Him (2 Cor. 3:17). Just a side note: God's glory is integral in relation to head coverings. God's glory may be defined as His perfect nature, His perfect personality, or His perfect image.

1 Cor. 11:4-5, "Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his Head. And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her Head – it is just as though her head were shaved." Headship is simply the pathway of God's reflected glory (light/glow). Who is man's head? The Head (with a capital "H") of every man is Christ. He is dishonored if a man prays or prophesies with his head covered. Who is the Head of a woman? The Head of a woman is man. In the case of a married woman, her Head is her husband. In the case of a child, her Head is her dad or her mom, in the absence of her dad. In the case of a single adult woman, her Head would be the eldership. In the body everyone has a Head and everyone is a head, or, in other words, everyone has an office and is under the glory/glow of other offices. We all have offices to fulfill, and we all need each other. It's just like gears in a transmission, if one is missing or broken, it just doesn't work right. Back to 1 Cor. 11:5, "... it is just as though her head were shaved." If a woman shaves her head she is giving herself the appearance of a man. In this context, she appears to take the wrong office. God is concerned with gender-appearance. God is concerned that we appear to be the gender we are. He made you in His image, and he gave you a gender for a purpose. His purpose.

1 Cor. 11:6, "IF A WOMAN DOES NOT COVER HER HEAD SHE SHOULD HAVE HER HAIR CUT OFF" – strong words. Some

interpret this scripture to mean that hair is the covering. Clearly, this scripture is speaking about a covering or a veiling (the Greek word used here for cover is "katakalyvptw" – which means a veiling). If the context were long hair, Paul would have said "long hair," not covering. And how can a lady cover her head only when praying or prophesying if it was talking about hair. She would have difficulty taking her hair off and on to pray or prophesy. This scripture also says it is a disgrace to have her hair cut off, and it implies to defeminize herself in that way is a disgrace. One could say it's as strange for a lady not to have her head covered while praying or prophesying as it is to have her head shaved. On a side note, short hair is a relative issue and changes somewhat within the culture. Ladies' hair nowadays may be shorter, but still feminine. Hair length in any culture is probably an overall comparison between men and women. Basically, if a man's hair is longer than most women's, it is too long; or, if a woman's hair is shorter than most men's, it's probably too short.

1 Cor. 11:7, "A man ought not to cover his head since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man." This verse makes more sense after reading 2 Cor. 3:18: "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." The Amplified Bible also includes the word "reflected" in 1 Cor. 11:7 to read, "For a man ought not to wear anything on his head [in church], for he is the image and [reflected] glory of God [his function of government reflects the majesty of the divine Rule]; but woman is [the expression of] man's glory. Woman is the reflected glory of man." God's glory – which is His personality, His nature, or His

image – is described as a light. His glory shines from Himself to Christ (the light of the world) to man, who reflects His glory back to Him. This is how we glorify God, that glory is shone from God to Christ to man to woman where it is reflected back. We are like mirrors reflecting God's image although not perfectly clear yet as described in 1 Cor. 13:12. Woman receives her glory from man, so woman is the reflected glory of man, or is the glory of man. Not man's glory, for he has none, but God's glory through man.

1 Cor. 11:8-9, "For man did not come from woman but woman from man; neither was man created for woman but woman for man." This was the order of creation. Man was created first, then woman was created from man (not *by* man, but *from* man). She was for man from man, not to be used by him as a tool or slave, but for his own good and to be cherished as his own body. She was created for man's own good, fitting in as part of God's overall plan and order of creation. She is a vital piece of the puzzle. All of creation is not fully useful to God, or man for that matter, without woman. How useful is a lock without a key?

1 Cor. 11:10, "For this reason and because of the angels the woman ought to have a sign of AUTHORITY on her head." The word authority is translated from the Greek work "ejxousiva," which means power. She has power upon her head when she wears a head covering. What kind of power? The power of a priest. "Because of the angels;" angels are ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation. Hebrews 1:14: angels are waiting to do God's work when we pray. When a woman wears a head covering she has a priestly power, "a license," so to speak, to pray and prophecy, to bring the needs of the people before the altar of God in prayer, or to

bring the words of God to the people in prophecy, just like a priest, according to Paul. The angels recognize this authority and go into action, scattering to do the will of God, powered by our prayers. There are also bad angels who no doubt step aside recognizing and revering this power. If a man has his head covered, possibly he may be rendered ineffective, as in verse 7.

1 Cor. 11:11-12, "In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman, but everything comes from God."

In the Lord, man and woman are dependent upon each other. We need each other in God's order for His glory to flow from God to Christ to man to woman, radiating and reflecting His nature throughout the church and back to Himself.

1 Cor. 11:13-15, "Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering."

By "nature," here, Paul is saying that in the natural it is unusual for a man to have long hair (relative to the culture he is in) or likewise for a woman to have very short hair. In the natural, a woman's hair is HER glory (not God's glory). The word glory, in Greek is "doxa" and has several different expressions or English words to describe it. In this context, "doxa=dignity" would best describe her hair as her natural glory. Long hair is given to her as a covering, in the natural. If this were speaking about the spiritual, all Christian women would have to have long hair and in some religious groups they do. This whole passage is clearly speaking about a veiling as a covering (in the spiritual), not just hair as a covering. A woman is free to have whatever hair style she

likes in the natural (as long as it defines her as a woman and not a man) but should veil herself when acting in the role of a priest before God, speaking God's word to the congregation in prophecy, or taking the needs of the people to God in prayer.

1 Cor. 11:16, "If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice – nor do the churches of God."

Obviously there must have been some contention regarding this subject back then too, but overall they must have been following this teaching because in verse 2 he says, "I praise you... for holding to the teachings."

Here are some other questions that often arise during this discussion:

Q: If I'm not going to pray or prophecy, do I really need a head covering?

A: In short, yes, for the sake of unity, which God loves and blesses. See Psalm 133:1-3 and Ephesians 4:3. Also, it is good for outsiders to observe unity (remember the story with which I opened). You may be

asked to pray, or, what if the Lord puts a prophecy on your heart and urges you to give it? If you are asked to pray or want to prophecy and don't have a covering on, you have several options. You can decline, just say "no thank you" to the elder or to God, or you can put your hand over your head, or use a handkerchief. These options should not be considered as substitutes but rather come to church with your head covering on, prepared to pray and prophesy. Preparation is better than improvisation. The options are for when you find yourself in unusual circumstances.

In many church groups head coverings are not an issue because there is little or no body ministry, so the opportunity to pray or prophesy seldom exists. But, as priests in training, we have been taught to stand ready to minister in the services.

No doubt many prayers' have been answered when women have prayed without this understanding and don't have a covering. The Lord deals with us at the level of our understanding.

OCTOBER CAMP MEETING

**A Kingdom - Sonship - Reconciliation Gathering
BIG SPRING, WEST TEXAS**

1209 Wright Street ~ SPRING TABERNACLE

~ OCT. 12 - 13 - 14 ~

Theme: "THE COMING TOGETHER of THE BODY of CHRIST"

(Ministries from Sharon in North Battleford
will be present to minister the Kingdom Word.)

**Contact: TERRY MILLER: SharonBroadcast@yahoo.com
or JERRY KOLTES: Ph. (940) 391-1448 or JRKoltes@juno.com**

- No registration fee. Noon meals will be provided without charge Saturday and Sunday, and a light lunch after the evening services. (A free-will offering will be received for expenses.) Reasonable MOTEL rates are available. Services will be Friday at 7 p.m. and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Please plan to stay for the Sunday night service, as that is usually our largest crowd. Please let us know if you are coming. The nearest airport is Midland, Texas (40 miles away), and Dallas is a five hour drive. See you in Big Spring!

A Great Refreshing Awaits You

Q: What type of head covering should I wear?

A: This is up to you. Of course, people's tastes vary and variety is nice. When the scripture speaks of a covering the Greek description is to veil wholly, so trying to minimize the covering to make it as unnoticeable as possible isn't really that scriptural. Doilies have become common with us but are certainly not the only way. Hats are also very nice and more culturally acceptable.

God has revealed this truth to us through scripture as part of His plan for the church. If one considers this teaching as an access to priestly abilities and not as a burden, it will give you freedom. If you struggle with this teaching make it an issue of prayer, for God loves it when we bring our sincere inquiries to Him, so He can make us comfortable with His truths. You may want to fast and pray for this understanding.

An Elder

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CALLED HOME

Viola Grandel
July 21, 2007
Lloydminster, SK

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

- Minden Meetings Sept. 28 - 30, 2007
- Texas Camp Meeting (Big Spring) Oct. 12-14, 2007
- New Jersey Camp Oct. 26 - 28, 2007
- Pinelow Family Camp Nov. 9-12, 2007
- North Battleford New Year's Youth Retreat . Dec. 28, 2007 - Jan. 1, 2008

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The Sharon Star is a bi-monthly paper, published and mailed out on the free-will offering plan, as a medium of information for all who are interested in the unfolding revelation of the Word of God.

Published by Sharon Children's Homes and Schools, Box 878, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, S9A 2Z3.

Sharon Star on line www.thesharonstar.org
Office (306) 445-2733.

Publications Mail Agreement 40012206