

# The Wearing of Long Hair by Men Sanctioned

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The Wearing of Long Hair by Men Sanctioned  
*(Numbers 6:5; Judges 13:5)*

The Wearing of Long Hair by Men Condemned  
*(1Corinthians 11:14)*

Long hair on a woman is a symbol that represents her role within the family and a reminder that she is to relate to her husband in the same manner that her husband is supposed to relate to Christ.

But I (Paul) want you (members of the Body of Christ) to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is (Almighty) God (1Cor. 11:3; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses).

This is the family structure that Almighty God ordained and any variation is against His will. A woman's hair is both a glory to her as well as a statement that she acknowledges her husband's role as the head of the family.

But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering (SGD 4018; veil or mantle – symbol of subjection) (1Cor. 11:15).

When a woman fulfills her role within the family, her long hair is changed, metaphorically speaking, and becomes a crown, or credit, to her husband.

An excellent wife is the crown of her husband ... (Prov. 12:4a).

Long hair on a woman is also a reminder that in the creative order both "man" and some angels were formed first.

For man (in the creative order) is not from woman, but woman from man (1Cor. 11:8; Ed. note in parenthesis).

For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels (who were also created before her) (1Cor. 11:10; Ed. notes in parenthesis).

If the Genesis account is read chronologically, Adam was created before some of the angels. The angels are described symbolically as "trees" that Adam was allowed to fellowship with in God's Garden (see studies: Symbolism).

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (Gen. 2:7).

And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree (symbol for angel; cf. Eze. 31:16-18) grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food ... (Gen. 2:9a).

In the spirit realm Adam, the angels, and Eve were to work together as a family. Unfortunately, this family did not cooperate for very long nor did they follow God's commands. However, those who are led by God's Holy Spirit today can work together and serve the head of God's church, Jesus Christ, while respecting one another's role and responsibility within the human family.

Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord (1Cor. 11:11; emphasis added).

As long hair is a reminder of a woman's role within the human family, and as a woman is to be subject to her human husband, it is incongruous that a man should have long hair because it is a role reversal (see studies: The Role of Men; The Role of Women in The Church).

Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair it is a dishonor to him? (1Cor. 11:14).

Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered (SGD 2596; flowed down from his head – i.e. long flowing hair), dishonors his head (i.e. Christ) (1Cor. 11:4; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In 1Corinthians 11:1-16, Paul was addressing issues in the Corinthian church. Apparently, popular fashions worn by Roman women were becoming part of the early church culture. Wealthy Roman women wore expensive materials, make-up, jewelry, and highly elaborate hairstyles and wigs. As many Roman women wore their hair in tight braids close to their heads, they did not display the long hair that God expected women to have.

Therefore I (Paul) desire that the men pray everywhere lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; <sup>9</sup>in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel with propriety and moderation (discretion; not showy), not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing (like Roman women), <sup>10</sup>but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. <sup>11</sup>Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. <sup>12</sup>And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. <sup>13</sup>For Adam was formed first then Eve. <sup>14</sup>And Adam was not deceived but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression (1Tim. 2:8-14; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

In ancient Israel it would be very humbling for a man to be seen in society with long hair. He would be open to ridicule, unless it was clear that he voluntarily submitted to a Nazirite vow. Because ancient Israel understood the symbolism associated with such a vow, it is unlikely that anyone would harass such a man. However, the symbolism of long hair on a man was a constant reminder to everyone who saw him that he was in a state of humbling, or lowering, himself just as others in Israel did when they "fasted" for a period of time without food and water. Although there was no directive for someone involved with a Nazirite vow to "fast," there were instructions regarding certain food items that were to be avoided during the course of the vow. Consequently, a person taking the Nazirite vow would be deprived of certain desirable food and drink for the extent of their vow.

He shall separate himself from wine and similar drink; he shall drink neither vinegar made from wine nor vinegar made from similar drink; neither shall he drink any grape juice, nor eat fresh grapes or raisins. <sup>4</sup>All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, from seed to skin (Nu. 6:3-4).



**DOES NOT EVEN NATURE ITSELF TEACH  
YOU THAT IF A MAN HAS LONG HAIR IT IS  
A DISHONOR TO HIM?**

**1 Corinthians 11:14**

As Nazirite vows were part of the temple system during the First Covenant period, any humbling of oneself today, or any separation, for religious reasons would be accomplished through periodic fasting as Christ pointed out.

And Jesus said to them (disciples of John), 'Can the friends of the bridegroom (i.e. Christ) mourn

as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them (i.e. at Christ's death), and **then they will fast** (Mt. 9:15; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

To state that Numbers 6:5 and Judges 13:5 is a directive from God that men can wear long hair is misquoting scripture not to mention taking it out of context. It is because long hair dishonors a man's normal role in society that a Nazirite vow was not an easy task to fulfill (1Cor. 11:14). It most certainly separated a man from every other male in Israelite society because everyone else would have short hair according to the law.

Nor shall they (male priests) shave their heads, **nor let their hair grow long**; but they shall keep their hair well-trimmed (Eze. 44:20; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

As Jesus Christ did not take a Nazirite vow during his earthly ministry, and as he lived by every word of his heavenly Father, his hair would have remained short and his beard well-trimmed, contrary to many popular paintings, icons, and other depictions.

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