



## NEWS AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Church Beautification Project
- ❖ September 5  
Baby Shower for EunKyoung Sheppard
- ❖ Wednesday Prayer Group
- ❖ September 18  
Youth Gathering
- ❖ September 19  
New Family-Focused Small Group
- ❖ September 19  
Heart-to-Heart Women's Event
- ❖ September 27  
Membership Orientation Class
- ❖ September 29  
NCNC Potluck and Celebration

Details on p. 3

## Head Coverings (1 Cor. 11:2-16)

By Erik Hyatt, Lead Pastor

Some parts of the Bible are difficult to understand. Some passages you would like to skip, ignore, or wish they weren't there. 1 Corinthians 11 is one of those passages. Christians, or churches that avoid/ignore such difficult passages remain immature, shallow, syncretistic, nominal, liberal, or worse – make up doctrines that make them feel better.

But difficult passages, properly understood, should increase our joy, peace, and freedom in Christ!! It should exalt Christ, not any single culture! **“Written for our instruction”** (1 Cor. 9:9-10; 10:11). My goal is to help us see the meaning of these verses, in historical context, THEN to draw out a modern application for today. Questions to answer for modern readers are...

### 1. Why HEAD COVERING?

- a. **Honor/Shame** – (v.4) Werner Mischke, *Global Gospel*, points out that in every culture some things “GO WITHOUT SAYING.” Biblical authors assumed some “COMMON KNOWLEDGE.” (**Modern Examples:** American men don't ask for directions☺. And never ask a woman's age, weight, or if she's pregnant!). All designed to retain PUBLIC HONOR and avoid SHAME. The only reason to talk about such things would be if someone [usually a foreigner] violates the unspoken rule.

Continued from p. 1

The Bible (OT/NT) is dominated by the HONOR/SHAME cultural orientation. Corinth is another example, (Repeated/emphasized words = v.4-6 “dishonors, disgraceful”; 7:10 “ought”; 14-15 “proper, disgrace, glory”). Hair and head covering for women was the issue.

**b. Historical context:**

- 1) All Women/Men (Jew, Greek, Roman) wore head coverings.
- 2) SHAVED heads were marks Aphrodite temple priestesses/prostitutes.
- 3) SHORT hair was for women in mourning (Story of Electra...), or punishment for adultery.
- 4) Male Head COVERING? (v.4) Priests of Roman deities wore to show elite status. (v.5) BOTH Men AND women prayed/prophesied in church! Some of these repented, trusted Jesus, and joined the church! Discipleship takes time! Hence discussion on food to idols (ch.10). BUT... this passage is NOT just about cultural practices of the time. There is a timeless truth...

c. **Lines of Authority** (v.3) “THE HEAD OF...”, NOT “The PROPERTY OF,” BUT “LOVING PROVIDER/PROTECTOR OF.” THE MODEL? JESUS CHRIST! He came to serve, not be served; to love his bride to point of self-sacrifice (Eph. 5:25). BAD MODEL? Any husband that exercises authority over women apart from Christ’s. These are often abusive or abdicating their responsibilities (i.e. dead-beat dads).

d. **A Symbol** - Paul seems to say HAIR is the covering for women (v. 13-15). HOWEVER, it that is the case, then v.6-7 makes no sense. Clearly, women were expected to wear the covering. Why?

**2. Why COVERING for women? (3 reasons)**

a. **Created ORDER (v.7-9) First-century Gnosticism** = Androgyny – Glorified humans realized no sexual differentiation. Today? (**Example:** TV shows... the toughest cop is a woman!). NOT just Apostolic tradition, but God’s created order! (v. 8) BEFORE THE FALL!

b. **Because of the Angels?** (v.10) As watchers/protective agents for humans (Psa. 34:7; 103:20-21) they too covered themselves in GOD’s authoritative presence (Isa. 6) and do his will with JOY! Also...

c. **Because of Nature?** (v.13-15). Stoic philosophers... one could discern what is best in life by examining the laws of nature. So Paul compares natural human inclinations and practices of hair length as evidence. Long hair for men (v.14), could be mistaken for a woman, could get one caught in battle. But for women, her “glory” (v.15). However, the main point is NOT length of hair nor the material over one’s physical head.

**3. Main Point and Application for today?**

a. **Symbols change in meaning!** Over time, symbols that spoke clearly to one culture and era, can become confused with other cultures and meanings! (**Example:** The rainbow is now a Gay/Lesbian symbol). Same for head-coverings today. Confusion with Islam, Hinduism, and other religions. Symbol of oppression. Hairstyles also don’t carry the same meaning. MEANING/IDENTIFICATION is ultimate (**Story:** As Youth Pastor... baseball cap, “Gang-related.” So what is the timeless truth?

b. **Biblical Gender Complimentarianism** is God’s design – BEFORE THE FALL. The roles COMPLIMENT each other. The alternate view is “EGALITARIANISM”. There ARE areas of equality, but... How we demonstrate authority among men and women in church should reflect the image of our creator and his design, for HIS glory not ours! It should reflect Christ’s relationship with his church.

c. **Symbol of HEAD COVERING in the church today?** None! Just ACTION (1 Pet. 3:3-4). Men humbly submitting to, and imitating, Christ as shepherds (pastor/elder), and women happily serving alongside and under that authority as deaconesses, worship team, SS teachers, etc.

**Conclusion:** NCNC will only ever have male elders and pastors who submit to Christ as their head and seek to imitate his sacrificial love, comfort, and empowerment of his bride – the church. If one wants to be contentious on this point, 1 Cor. 11:16 says, “we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.”

*By the grace of God, we exist to advance the reign of Christ among all peoples through a redeemed community of all peoples.*

## NEWS AND EVENTS

- ❖ **NCNC Church Beautification Project**  
Please help beautify our kitchen and fellowship hall so that we may host a potluck in celebration of our church anniversary on September 20<sup>th</sup>.  
**When:** Weekday evenings until September 19<sup>th</sup>  
**Where:** NCNC  
**RSVP:** The City Calendar or Stacie Destin.
- ❖ **NCNC Potluck, Church Anniversary, and Wedding Celebration**  
Please join us for an all church potluck as we celebrate NCNC's 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary and Samuel Ngendakuriyo and Rachel Ose's marriage. Please bring a dish to share with 8-10 people. Wedding cake will be provided.  
**Where:** NCNC Fellowship Hall  
**When:** September 20 after church  
**RSVP:** The City Calendar Event
- ❖ **NCNC Membership Orientation Class**  
During this class we will share the history of NCNC, discuss the mission, vision, and values of the church, and answer any of your questions. Lunch will be provided.  
**Where:** NCNC Conference Room  
**When:** September 27<sup>th</sup> after church  
**RSVP:** The City Calendar or Stacie Destin
- ❖ **NCNC Helping Hands Policy**  
If an NCNC member becomes aware of a community member experiencing an extraordinary financial crisis, please do not give him/her cash. Instead, refer him/her to an NCNC leader for assistance. NCNC works with Jericho Road Ministries, a church-based relief organization that helps people who have needs beyond what our church can provide alone.
- ❖ **Congratulations to Joyce and Tong Khang**  
Praise God!! Azaiah Kou Khang was born on August 23, 2015 at 4:51pm, weighing 6.12 lbs and 19.3 inches. Many blessings to baby boy Azaiah and the Khang family!

## MINISTRY EVENTS

- ❖ **Baby Shower for EunKyoung**  
NCNC Women are all invited to join us in blessing and praying for EunKyoung Sheppard and her unborn baby. Please RSVP to bring an appetizer and lawn chairs.  
**When:** Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-4:00pm  
**Where:** Amy Terry's Home, 1723 Chelmsford St., St. Paul, MN  
**RSVP:** The City Calendar Event or Christine Chow on the City.
- ❖ **New Weekday Prayer Group**  
Come pray for each other, our church and the nations. Bring a sack lunch.  
**When:** Wednesdays, 12:30 to 2:30pm  
**Where:** Julianne Vanderaa's House, 384 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, New Brighton, MN 55112  
**Contact:** Julianne at 651-500-8572
- ❖ **New Family-Focused Small Group**  
A new family-focused small group will study of The Power of a Praying Parent.  
**When:** First and third Saturdays over supper, starting September 19<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm.  
**Contact:** David or Eada Raab at [ejoraab@gmail.com](mailto:ejoraab@gmail.com) or [612-386-7228](tel:612-386-7228)
- ❖ **Youth Gathering**  
**When:** Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 to 9:00pm  
**Where:** NCNC Lounge  
**Teen Q's Theme:** Knowing God  
**For rides, contact:** Christine Chow, 763-595-7905, [christinexianchow@gmail.com](mailto:christinexianchow@gmail.com)
- ❖ **Heart-to-Heart Women's Event**  
Come enjoy a leisurely walk along the Mississippi River. Bring your own lunch and beverage. Heart-to-Heart events are designed to deepen our friendships and encourage one another in good times and challenging times.  
**When:** September 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am to 1:00pm  
**Where:** Hidden Falls Regional Park, 1313 Hidden Falls Drive, St Paul, MN 55116.  
**RSVP:** Julianne 651-500-8572 or on The City.  
**Let Julianne, Trisha, or Christine know if you need a ride.**