

## Changed Appearance: Part Three

The "Umbrella" principles:

- Our actions please God rather than grieve Him (*Colossians 3:17, Ephesians 4:30, 2 Corinthians 5:9*)
- Our actions regard our bodies as temples of the Holy Ghost (*1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20*)
- Our actions don't give place to sinful humanity (*1 John 2:16*)
- Christians are transformed, not conformed (*Romans 12:1-2*)
- God intentionally created two distinct sexes (*Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18-25*)

Differentiation of the Sexes & Hair Length: (*1 Corinthians 11:2-16*)

3) The foundation for the passage is Biblical accountability.

5) Paul likens an uncovered head to a shaved head.

6) Therefore, Paul notes, since it's shameful to be uncovered, women should have their heads covered. Covered with what? See verse 15.

8-10) Paul describes that length of hair is a reflection of our understanding of creation & Biblical accountability.

14) Paul expresses that nature itself teaches distinction between genders.

15) Long hair dishonors men, but is a glory for women. It should be for her a sense of joy & satisfaction.

16) There was no custom among the churches of God contrary to what Paul taught.

Since this is the only place this specific distinction is taught in Scripture, does it really apply to us today?

- The appearance of men's & women's hair is a function of distinction of the sexes, which is clearly a fundamental Biblical teaching.
- Other passages associate expected hair length to gender (*Revelation 9:8, Nazarite vow (Samson, John the Baptist)*).

- All Scripture is profitable for a disciple (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*).
- When we embrace this natural distinction we are agreeing that God's creation is "very good" (*Genesis 1:31*).

How long is long hair and how short is short hair?

- Regarding women's long hair, Paul instructs that long means uncut. Further, wearing hair in a way that displays its length enhances her gender distinction.
- Regarding men's short hair, practical application is to follow our natural hair line. In fact, since hair is a covering, and men are not to be covered, it follows that shorter is better.

#### Differentiation of Genders & Facial Hair

Many men in Scripture had beards (King David, Ezra the prophet, Aaron the priest).

In fact, not having a beard could be considered shameful (*1 Chronicles 19:4-5*).

Though clearly masculine, Scripture notes that beards shouldn't associate men negatively (*Lev 19:27, 21:5*).

Should Christian men wear facial hair?

- Honor personal conviction.
- Take note of motives & associations (*Proverbs 16:2, 20:27 (NLT)*).
- Having made these considerations, disciples can embrace facial hair as a masculine distinction.

#### *In Summary:*

Regardless of our strengths or weaknesses (attitudes, actions or appearance), Living Faith is the place that our relationship with God is encouraged and deepened, this is the place that our understanding is enlightened and strengthened, the church is the place we are empowered for everyday Christian living. Loving Our Savior & Learning His Ways helps us Live Faith Daily.