

Loving Authority

1 Corinthians 11:1-16

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

² I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you. ³ But 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. ⁴ Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵ But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved. ⁶ For if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head.

⁷ A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. ⁸ For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; ⁹ neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. ¹⁰ It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels. ¹¹ Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. ¹² For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

¹³ Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴ Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, ¹⁵ but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. ¹⁶ If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God.

The True model of Leadership

Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Men and Women are Equal in Importance and Value (even when in different roles):

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Genesis 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:15a,18, 20b-22 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ... The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” ... But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The call to those under authority

Government:

Romans 13:1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.
(Also 1 Peter 2:13-14)

Parents/kids:

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
(Also Ephesians 6:1-4)

Husbands/Wives

Colossians 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

Church Leadership

Hebrews 13:17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

The call to those in authority

Romans 13:4a For the one in authority is God's servant for your good.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

1 Peter 5:2-3 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

There is a call to those under authority (which is all of us) and to those in authority. Neither position is easy (in our human nature), but both are attainable by God's power and portray a beautiful picture of God.