

*Blood-Bought Daughters*  
Helen G. Cunningham 2-11-09

1Corinthians 11:1-12

Verse 3, NIV, *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.*

In our secular vernacular and societal traditions, and most especially in Christian fellowships, we have come to understand the *head* of anything to imply authority. This idea of authority here and also in 1Timothy 2:12 completely hides and even changes the true meaning of these verses rendering them to be in juxtaposition with the rest of Scripture, and especially in opposition with the teaching and actions of Christ with His Blood-bought daughters.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance gives the meaning of *head* in 1Corinthians, and all other times this word appears in the New Testament (except in Matthew 12:4, where it simply means one's physical head) from the Greek, as a primary root word to mean *seizing, the head as the part most readily taken hold of*. Regarding the humanity of Christ Jesus, and that the triune God made man in His own image, and that the Father prepared a body for His Son to come to save us in the realm of time in which mankind exists, is pregnant with meaning - pun intended!

So what, indeed, is 1Corinthians 11:3 telling us? It is this – That Jesus the Son, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Trinity (John 1:1-3) created mankind in His image, male and female, Genesis 1:27 and v.28, *And God blessed them and said unto them, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea....", all this God gave in commandment to them, not to the man alone. Chapters 2-5 re-tell the creation story regarding mankind more specifically, bringing us to Genesis 5:2, *Male and female created He them, and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.**

God is telling us in 1Corinthians 11:3 that He made man in His image, and that He made woman from the rib of the man, and that the Father brought the Son as His Anointed One via the womb of the woman, Mary, in the body He prepared for Him according to His own will (Hebrews 10:5b). Absolutely no authority passes from God to the man to be in authority over the woman. What God states in Genesis 3:16 is not a command from God to Adam for Adam to rule over Eve, but rather He stated the sad consequence of sin where one sinner would seek, by selfish force, to rule over another; which thing God never intended; of which Jesus warned His disciples against in Mark 10:42-45; vs. 44-45, *And whoever wants to be the first must be slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*

And that last verse is the perfect segue into the true meaning of Ephesians 5:25-33! Ephesians 5:21-33 is spoken to men and women who are married. It is not a command for all men and women in general to be the guide for their behavior in either Christian or secular society. According to this passage, a man is to protect his wife as the *life-giver* God has made her to be (Genesis 3:20) even if such protection should require his own life; and therefore, it reasonably follows that the wife should reverence her husband in his exercising so great a command that God has laid upon him; and therefore, each fulfills Ephesians 5:21. I love how God never expects us to leave our intellect at the door of entrance into His great truths. Rather, He reveals His truth and enables us, by His gracious Holy Spirit, to bring every thought captive to Him – glorious!

It is almost comical (I speak reverently) to read 1Corinthians 11:7 with understanding, where we see that Adam was the glory of all of God's creation, up to that point, and that His creation of Eve as the life-giver was even more glorious than the creation of man alone!

1Corinthians 11:8-10, *For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head.* The important thing here is to realize that this authority is hers and therefore she can wear it on her head as a crown! (Again, it is somewhat comical how even gifted and holy men don't seem to know what to do with this verse. Of a truth, it's real meaning might prove to threaten men concerning authority they perceive to be

given them by God. However, we shall see what God is really after here.) What is this authority? It is not authority as we commonly apply it; it is rather the gift of God to a woman to be a *life-giver*! Being God's life-giver is not to be minimized by anyone in any place or at any time! "*Because of the angels*" has many instances in Scripture where we find evidence of how God, via his personifications and visitations in the Old Testament, communicated directly to women, culminating with the virgin, Mary, in the Gospels. In these instances, God communicated His will and revelations to women without a man as interpreter or mediator. Therefore, because God has at diverse times and situations communicated with a woman, she may indeed wear this graciousness to her from her God as a crown of glory upon her own head!

Another truth in these verses is that God declares that Adam was alone before Eve's creation. God said that he was alone and that that was not good, so He made him a helper just like him; a female version of mankind; not someone lesser but someone just like him (see 1Corinthians 2:11). So God declares in verses 8-10 that God first created man and then created the woman from that same man so they would be made of the same "stuff," earthy (see 1Corinthians 15:47). And that without the life-giving woman, there could be no other of mankind to be born thereafter. God is declaring the mutual dependence of one to the other without any kind of authority, neither given nor implied, that one would lord over the other. Notwithstanding, the gracious gift of women being life-givers is precious in His sight.

**There is no basis anywhere in Scripture, whatsoever, for the false doctrine of "order of creation!"**

Next, we will pursue a proper and true understanding of 1Timothy 2:5-14. The setting is this; Paul has left young Timothy in Ephesus and he writes to encourage Timothy regarding what he is to teach the Church that is there. We find Ephesus and its religious beliefs clearly revealed in Acts 19. Ephesus was the center of female deity worship, and the ancient city retained traces of this even into the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, where at a Council in Ephesus, Catholic clergy declared Mary to not only be the mother of the man Jesus, but to be the mother of God and that she was, herself, personally sinless. Simply put, this false religion in Ephesus, taught that female deity was the source of all life and all knowledge. Now, if you have any understanding at all of the middle-east and its collective regard for women, it is easy to see how women would be drawn to a religious mindset that would give them some worth and hope of elevation beyond that of a slave!

Women had no rights. We can see this in our own recent history here in America, when in the first days of our nation, it was considered socially wrong for a woman to own property by herself or run her life without the input of some man in her family or community. Even today, women are still fighting for equality in the secular world. It is only in Christ that a woman can truly and finally find her worth! That is what Jesus came to reveal to His Blood-bought daughters and sons. So what is Paul saying to Timothy? He is telling Timothy to not allow women to speak of and/or teach about these female deities that gave them a false authority over the men who were wrongly oppressing them. Rather Timothy was to tell them that it was not the female deities who were the source of all life and knowledge. No, rather God is the Creator, and He created Adam then Eve, and even though they sinned, they would be saved if they believed and trusted that God would send His own Son, our Saviour, via the womb of the woman, Mary.

The crowning argument of Paul is not who has some supposed authority over whom by a false doctrine regarding order of creation, but rather Who the true and only Creator is! It is amazing how often mankind has minimized the truths of God in order to find some elevation for self. It is most often done by well meaning men who are ignorant of the whole of Scripture, and well meaning women who have been taught the traditions of men and have yet to study these truths out for themselves. However, for the diligent seeker, *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness!*" (2Timothy 3:16)

Perhaps, these few words have awakened a renewed interest into the things which have to do with our salvation as God's own precious Blood-bought daughters!