

WOMEN'S LONG HAIR - THE GLORY OF THE CHURCH

1Corinthians 11:15 *But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.*

In biblical language and imagery, a woman represents the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Note carefully that the apostle Paul qualifies his statement with “if a woman have long hair...” Paul is aware that not all women will receive this invitation to holiness, especially in our modern world where self-will and rebellion are falsely labelled freedom and self-expression. Paul states, quite remarkably, that a woman who voluntarily chooses to grow her hair long will find that it is a “glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering”. We must unpack this tantalizing statement full of promise. Let us first begin with the “glory to her”.

Judges 16:21 *But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.*
Judges 16:22 *Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.*

The glory of Samson was his God-given strength, of which the length of his hair was the barometer, if you will. From his birth, he was a Nazirite. The Law of Moses has this to say about the Nazirite vow. “All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the LORD, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow” (Numbers 6:59). As he grew physically, so did his superhuman strength. In the same vein, as the newborn Christian woman grows, she should let her hair grow as a token of her submission to the order of God. Only the woman is permitted to grow her hair long because she has been chosen to represent the living church of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is what the apostle means by “it is a glory to her”. Like Samson, the church has supernatural, God-given power which corresponds to the level of her submission to the Lord. More submission equates to more power! I am almost tempted to state that we can often gauge the strength of the church by looking at, not just the length of the hair of Apostolic women, but their entire demeanor and character. I am aware that we are placing too much of burden on the shoulders (literally) of our women, but God chose to do the same with Samson. Imagine that the safety of Israel in the days of the Judges depended on the length of one man’s hair – Samson. The tragedy of Israel in the days of the Judges was precisely the fact that they did not seem to know that their safety and deliverance from the Philistines was directly dependent on the length of the hair of Samson. This is why I felt I could not ignore this important topic, which many churches choose to avoid.

Thank God, the hair of Samson began to grow! Remember that his hair was cut while he played around with another woman. Delilah represents the church of Satan. The Devil wants the church to lie down in his bosom and cut her hair. The most dangerous and fatal sound in the life of Samson was that of a pair of scissors behind his head and ears. The one occupation that Samson should have had nothing to do with was barbers. Our sisters represent the church as the body of Christ – they are our Samsons. I was once eating in an open restaurant and observed a woman go into a hair salon. After some time, she came out looking like a completely different person. The hair color changed to something artificial, the face looked like plastic and she could barely close her eyes. She was sprayed with more chemicals than a vegetable. She definitely had a new “glory”, but it certainly was not from the Lord. Delilah played with her hair. The brothers plead with you sisters not to lie down in the bosom of the hair saloons of this world. Let us see your hair grow and we will be encouraged; we will have confidence to fight the Philistines. Remember the enemy first goes after the hair (holiness and glory of the church) and then he goes for the eyes to blind the church. If he cannot touch our sisters’ hair, he cannot touch the eyes of the church.

John 12:3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

We can easily observe the connection between long hair, holiness and submission in this scripture. The woman, Mary, represents the church. She is eternally grateful and indebted to her Lord Jesus Christ for raising her brother Lazarus from the dead. The submission of the church to the Lord Jesus Christ will save many Lazaruses from certain death. Sisters, your submission to the Lord, signified clearly by the long hair of Mary, will save your husbands, brothers, uncles etc. Please grow your hair long and it will be perfumed and anointed by the Holy Spirit of the Lord Jesus after which you can wipe his feet for all of us. Only women could worship the Lord Jesus in this manner – no man had long hair to do this in those days. Mary had to loosen her long hair. Next, she had to go down on the floor with her long hair falling on the feet of the Lord. The feet of the Lord represent ultimate submission to our beloved Savior.

John 12:7 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.

Thank you sisters for preparing the body of our Lord for burial with your submission to him by wiping his feet for all of us. Not only was Mary thanking the Lord for raising her

brother from the dead, but without knowing it, she was now preparing the Lord's body for raising all of us from the dead after three days. Hallelujah! Your hair is given you for your glory, sisters! How could Mary have done these marvelous things if her hair was short? Perhaps you were not aware of this mighty revelation, sisters, but God in his mercy is teaching you now; please let your hair grow like Samson. The Philistines will quake in their boots! Next, Paul states that her hair is given her for a covering. What does this mean?

Genesis 2:25 *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

Genesis 3:7 *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

In the first verse, “naked” was innocent because the woman was submitted to the order of God. Sadly, in the second one, “naked” has an ominous connotation. The covering Paul speaks about goes back to submission to the order of God. The woman (and man) were unperturbed by their nakedness in the first case because they were covered with the glory of God. Therefore, what the woman lost in paradise was the divine covering that was her glory. The man lost his covering too because of the woman – so it makes sense that a woman's long hair is given her – and him – for a covering. This is God's way of saying, “You must now show humility and submission if you want my glory to cover you and your husband again”. Glory be to Jesus! Thank God for Mary, who demonstrated this return to paradise lost in loosening her hair before all the men present, going down on the floor to Jesus' feet and wiping his feet with her hair. Are there more Marys in the house today? The word for long hair in Greek is *komaō*, which means, among others, “let the hair grow”.

Ruth 3:9 *And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.*

We see the meaning of this message encapsulated in what Ruth did in this verse. She followed the Law of Moses in submitting herself by lying down at the feet of Boaz who, in covering her with his garment, became her husband. We see the glory of Ruth in her submission, and how she became an ancestor of the great King David. Glory lies in submission. The husband of the church is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:22 *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

Ephesians 5:23 *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*

Ephesians 5:24 *Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

I am aware the brothers will utter the loudest “Amen” after this message but there will soon be a message about what the Lord requires from the brothers, to which the sisters will utter the loudest “Amen”, I trust. Until then, however, let us all say “Amen!”