



Complete these question *BEFORE* your Growth Group meets and then use your answers in discussion.

1 Corinthians 11:1-16 **The way of men & women**

TO PONDER:

Think together about gender differences and their implications. What does society think? What do your friends and family think? What do you think?

NOTE: 'This passage ... is one of the most difficult passages in the letter' (Ciampa & Rosner). You might finish this discussion with more questions than answers! That's ok. Pray for patience, gentleness, humility and wisdom as you discuss this passage.

Pray and read 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Paul is finishing his teaching on idolatry (ch 8-10) and beginning his teaching on worship at church (ch 11-14). How does this transition passage set the scene for us?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Start with the big picture. What do you think is the main issue that Paul is addressing in this passage?

How does Paul begin his teaching? What principles does he emphasise? (vv. 2-3)

The cultural significance of head coverings is foreign to us. However, as best you can, look at verses 4-10 and outline:

a) the principles

b) the reasons behind the principles

How does Paul clarify his teaching? (vv. 11-12)

What does Paul appeal to in verses 13-16? Are these appeals time-bound or timeless?

Think back over the passage as a whole. What can you affirm as good and God-given?

In what ways could you apply this passage to:

a) church life?

b) personal life?

Spend some time praying in response to God's Word. Thank God for his good design of men & women. Thank God for Christ who used his authority to serve us and save us. Pray for wisdom to apply this passage and glorify God.