

From Submission to Glory

Christ. Submission is part of the gospel foundation: “*the head of Christ is God*”. As the Son of God anticipated in anguish the horrors of the cross, He wept, “*not my will*”. Humanly speaking, He did not desire to drink the dark bitter judgment of our sin. But then said to the Father, “*but thine be done*”. Here we see in submitting, one does not have to desire the decision, but in love yield – honoring the other because they are over you.

As always, Jesus submitted to His Father. But now it would be to death – and – “*even the death of the cross*”. The cross of the Lord Jesus is called “*obedience*” for it was by choice, not chance or coercion. But being under another’s authority did not mean Christ was not God. He did not cease to be what He was by what He became. For example, a company president might resign from his position of authority and become a common employee taking orders – though now a servant, he is as fully human as he ever was.

And from the Son’s humble submission came glory. Glory for the Son: in being exalted to the right hand of God as Head of the Church. Glory for the believer: when at His coming we will obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Glory for the Father: in having many children who now glorify Him for saving them. No wonder the Lord prayed speaking of His death for sin: “*Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.*” God was glorified in Christ’s submission – the power and beauty of submission!

Church. Paul, the Lord’s chosen apostle, is called to write the commandments of the risen Lord Jesus to His church. These commandments involve headship, submission and glory. He instructs the church “*the head of every man is Christ*”. So the male is not an independent creature but as Christ submitted to His Father, the man is to submit to the Word and will of Christ. He then added, “*the head of the woman is the man*”. And, then added “*the head of Christ is God*”. So submission to our respective heads by the church comes from the gospel pattern of Christ Himself!

And this order of submission connects to glory. The Lord taught in 1Cor. 11 of three glories. Number one; God’s glory is the man. Number two; man’s glory is the woman. Number three; the woman’s glory is her long hair. So when praying or prophesying the woman is to have her *head* covered. This would veil or hide her glory (her hair) when coming into God’s presence. Therefore, the woman being covered is also covering man’s glory. But man is God’s glory and he being uncovered at such times would leave *only* the glory of God uncovered – thus revealing man’s head – Jesus Christ our Lord.

A woman is to wear this symbol of being under man’s authority “*because of the angels*”. What might angels have to do with this whole thing of submission and covering? Satan, the “*covering cherub*”, did not submit but exalted himself to be like God. Satan’s appointed ministry was: “*the anointed cherub that covereth*”. In Satan’s self-exaltation and his seduction of Eve, and Adam’s sin of not obeying God, the angels witnessed rebellion, sin, misery and death. But in Christ’s submission to death they witnessed salvation and a restored humanity – the wisdom of God. The influence of submission!

The Purpose of Coverings as Revealed in the Tabernacle

Coverings run from Genesis to Revelation and are part of God's ways. We see them from the Lord covering Adam and Eve to the "*covering veil*" in the holy temple to the covering for Christian women at times to the covering of the heavens being rolled back.

To understand coverings somewhat we will consider the Ark of the Covenant with its lid the mercy seat. This was God's throne where His glory resided in the tabernacle with Israel. It was strategically placed behind "*the covering veil*" to be hidden from view. It also had cherubim stretching out their golden wings to cover it. When God's glory cloud moved, it was time to transport the ark to the next resting place on their way to their promised inheritance. There were instructions given by the Lord on the coverings that He desired upon His Ark-throne for transportation.

There were 3 coverings in a precise order.

1. The covering veil. This shows us that one purpose of coverings is to hide from view. Like wrapping a present so one can't see what it is.
2. The badger's skin. This was meant to protect from the desert elements in transportation. So a covering can protect like covering a special car in the winter.
3. A cloth of blue. The ark would be the *only* piece that would have blue as its final covering. (Other tabernacle furniture would have badger's skin as the final covering). The Lord's Ark, in transportation, would alone stand out with a unique glory of blue. So coverings can also convey glory like a military uniform reveals the rank and honor of the person.

Coverings hide, protect or glorify. And we see that sometimes the Lord has a covering for a covering. The "*covering veil*" was to be covered itself with a covering.

Once these pieces were covered the Kohathites were to transport these covered vessels. However, one day one of the Kohathites (Korah) thought it was a "*small thing*" to do such and wanted more in being given the priesthood. God considered this unsubmissive, pride and rebellion. He opened up the ground to swallow up Korah and the rebels alive.

May we, whether a man under Christ, or a woman under man (demonstrated at times by covering her natural covering, her long hair, and her silence in the church) not consider our calling a "*small thing*". May we not be like Eve who listened to the whisper of the serpent who rebelled also, but be like Christ and trust the Lord's Word in submission.

{Some Scriptures for the truth of the above teaching. Christ's humble submission; Luke 22:40-44 / Heb. 5:7 / 1 Philp. 2:6-11. Praying concerning glory: John 12:28. The Lord's headship and glory: 1Cor. 11:3-16. Satan's rebellion: Isaiah 14:12-15 / Ezek. 28:11-17. The angels learning through the church: 1Cor. 11:10 / Eph. 3:10. The veil and coverings of the Ark: Exo. 40:21 / Num. 4:5-14. The Kohathites ministry of transporting the covered pieces: Num. 4:15. The rebellion of Korah seeing it as a small thing: Num. 16.}