

Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism

A Documentary Reader

Edited by Barry Hankins



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**BOBBED HAIR, THE SIGN OF WOMAN'S REBELLION
AGAINST HUSBAND, FATHER AND GOD**

Now at last we come to the question of bobbed hair. Do not confuse the subject of bobbed hair with the general subject of woman's dress and use of cosmetics. The question of whether a Christian woman bobs her hair is of infinitely more importance than whether she paints her face or her lips or her fingernails.

A Christian woman ought to dress "in modest apparel" (1 Tim. 2:9), and that command would make every earnest Christian woman careful not to expose her body unduly to the lustful gaze of evil men, nor to tempt clean-hearted, good men. But we are not discussing the clothes here.

Surely we will all agree that a Christian woman who does not live as the world lives and does not follow the world's ideals should not make too much effort to look like worldly women. Of wicked Queen Jezebel we are told that "she painted her face, and tired her head . . ." (II Kings 9:30). The Bible does not give detailed instructions about lipstick and rouge

and painted fingernails. But the most spiritual Christians among women usually feel that they cannot go to the extremes that worldly women follow in painting the face, in use of lipstick, in plucking the brows, and in other unnatural fads. Great numbers of the most spiritual women feel that to follow such a pattern is worldliness and hinders a Christian woman's influence. Besides, the women of the best taste know that they are only temporary fads and do not aid real beauty.

Yet the Bible does not expressly forbid the use of rouge. Spiritually-minded women should prayerfully consider their influence and try to please God. I cannot speak with Bible authority on the question of painted faces as I can on the question of bobbed hair: As to whether a woman should use paint at all, or how much, she must try to have the Spirit's leadership and not be offensive; the Bible gives no explicit directions. But on the matter of bobbed hair, the Bible is so clear that nothing is left to a woman's judgment as to whether she should have bobbed hair or long hair. The Bible expressly teaches that a woman should have long hair and gives a very beautiful and forceful reason for the command.

Let us examine again I Corinthians, chapter 11, verses 3 to 9: "3But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. 4Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. 5But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. 6For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven let her be covered. 7For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. 8For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. 9Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man."

The above Scripture tells us that since the man is the head of the woman, and there is a fundamental difference between men and women, that difference should be symbolized in the ways men and women wear their hair. Throughout the Bible it is stressed that men and women are different. A man is not like a woman. A woman is not like a man. It is a sin for a woman to try to appear like a man, and it is likewise a sin for a man to try to appear like a woman. God has one place for a man and a different place for a woman. For this cause in Deuteronomy 22:5 we are commanded. "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are

abomination unto the Lord thy God." It is a sin for women to appear masculine. It is equally a sin for men to appear effeminate. In fact, I Corinthians 6:9,10 names some of the unrighteous that "shall not inherit the kingdom of God." And among the adulterers and fornicators and drunkards and thieves and covetous and extortioners, God put the effeminate. To be effeminate is a horrible sin in God's sight. And the first sin with which God chided Adam, after the fall, was this: "Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife. . . ."

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Man is made in the image of God. God is a masculine God. The masculine pronoun is used of God everywhere in the Bible. That foolish and unscriptural title given by a woman preacher, Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, "Our Father-Mother God," dishonors God: God is not effeminate. God is not feminine, but masculine. And man is made in the image of God. On the other hand, a woman is not made so much in the image of God, but in the image and as a mate to man. So the Scripture says: "For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man."

Blessed is the woman that remembers this; her glory is in being a help to a man, and in submission to her husband or her father. And long hair is the mark of this submission, the mark of this femininity.

* * *

In this passage of Scripture, comparing verse 6 with verse 15 we find that God mentions three ways for a woman's hair to be worn. It maybe "shaved," that is, all cut off, or "shorn," that is, cut with shears or scissors, or it may be "long." Women often sincerely inquire how long hair must be to be counted long. The answer is that if it is not shaven and not shorn, it is long. God does not say how many inches long hair should be, but simply indicates that it should be left uncut, the symbol of a devout Christian woman who is not in rebellion against God and against her husband.

* * *

These days men have come to feel that if a woman will not fill a woman's place, she shall not have a woman's protection and respect and reverence. Men desert their wives as never before in the world. Very few men nowadays feel reverently about a woman's body. Boys who have dates with

these bobbed-haired, smoking, strong-willed, modern girls, expect to kiss them and fondle them as they please, or to kick them out of the car to walk home. The man who marries a modern woman these days marries a woman who expects to vote like a man, smoke like a man, have her hair cut like a man, and go without restrictions and without chaperons and obey nobody. A man who marries such a woman, I say, does not expect to support her. The modern girl is very often expected to work and help make a living.

In I Peter 3:7 husbands are commanded to give "honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel." When women cease to admit that they are the weaker vessels as God's Word says they are, then they lose this honor that men through the centuries have delighted to give to women. How many men now rise to give a seat on the streetcar to a woman? I am told that not long ago a man on the streetcar rose and offered his seat to a woman, and she was so surprised she fainted! When she recovered consciousness she said, "Thank you!" and then he fainted! I say, the honor, the deference, the courtesy, the protectiveness that practically all men, good and bad, once offered to good women, has almost disappeared!

I remember a time when every good woman, that is everyone who was not a harlot, received the utmost respect from practically every man. In circles of only ordinary culture, the worst men never took God's name in vain in the presence of women, and no gentleman ever smoked in the presence of a woman without her express permission. But today the masculine, rebellious woman has lost the reverence and respect good women once inspired in all men.

Oh, women, what you have lost when you lost your femininity! When you bobbed your hair, you bobbed your character, too. Your rebellion against God's authority as exercised by husband and father, has a tendency, at least, to lose you all the things that women value most. If you want reverence and respect from good men, if you want protection and a good home and love and steadfast [sic] devotion, then I beg you to take a woman's place! Dress like a woman, not like a man. Have habits like a woman. No woman ever gained by cursing and smoking and beer drinking and a rowdy life. And if you want God to especially bless you when you pray, then have on your head a symbol of the meek and quiet spirit which in the sight of God is of such great price.

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