



Are women the “glory of man”? 1 Cor. 11:7

YES, and ALSO women are the image and glory of God! Do not fall for the wrong thought that women are only the glory of man. It all comes down to one little conjunction “*de*”! In 1 Corinthians 11:7, Paul stated:

“A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.”

Key Term

δε = de

also, and, but, moreover, now

Paul knew Scripture taught BOTH male and female are made in God’s image.

Not only does Genesis 1:27 state clearly that both are made in God’s image, Paul stated that the destiny of brothers and sisters is to be conformed to the image of Christ (Col. 3:9-10). Shared image is the origin and the destiny of both!

Conjunction *de* is not simply a contrast.

Did Paul want to show a contrast and the deficiency of women in this passage? Did he want to teach that man is the image and glory of God, but woman is *only* the glory of man? Not at all! The little conjunction “*de*” can be used as a contrast, and translated “*but*.” But, “*de*” can **also** be used in a continuative sense, and be translated “and, moreover, in addition.” Check it out for yourself on www.BlueLetterBible.org. In this sense, Paul expressed that not only is a man the image and glory of God, **a woman is also all that, plus she is also the glory of man!** In Paul’s day, this thought challenged Corinthian culture since they did not celebrate wives as “glory.” Paul was doubly-blessing the women!

Reading two verses more, we encounter another potentially confusing situation.

1 Corinthians 11:8-9 states:

“For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.”

Paul spoke here of origin and the reason God created woman.

11:8 simply states the historical fact that the first woman came from the first man. In 11:9 Paul was NOT showing that women were created for the pleasure of, for the possession of, or for the use of man. No!

Once again, it comes down to a little Greek word “*dia*” which has a variety of meanings. Check out the online link www.BlueLetterBible.org. The meaning of *dia* that makes the most sense is “because of” or “for the sake of.” Why is this? “Because of” the first man’s aloneness, the woman was created. “For the sake of” eliminating his aloneness, the woman was made. *Dia* can also carry the meaning of “through,” and once again, the first woman was made *through* the first man, and not vice versa.

Key Term

διά = dia

for, because of, on account of, for the sake of

Preposition *dia* shows the woman rescued the lonely man!

Conclusion

1 Corinthians 11:7-9 has simple answers where some have sought to show male superiority. **Both male and female are made in God’s image; you know it, and Paul knew it. *De* can mean “also.” *Dia* can mean “because of.”** Understanding these prepositions clears up any confusion.

4 Crucial Questions

1. What does this teach us about **GOD**?
2. What does this teach us about **PEOPLE**?
3. What command should I **OBEY**?
4. With whom can I **SHARE** this?