**God’s Established Line Of Authority**

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***“Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and head of Christ is God.”* (1 Corinthians 11:2-3)**

We respect Paul’s inspired message to the Corinthians and have the determination to “keep the “traditions” delivered to them; those traditions have also been delivered to us. Earlier in this letter, we read that Paul had sent Timothy to them to teach the same traditions: (which Vines N.T. Dictionary refers to them as: apostolic ordinances) everywhere in every local church. Paul did not teach one doctrine for one church and then a different one because society or culture insists on it.

Paul ordains this line of authority: ***the head of every man is Christ and the head of Christ is God*** (the Father). Although there are some religious groups that will deny these truths, churches of Christ for nearly 20 centuries recognize this inspired line of authority. Jesus is the head of everyone for He is God but concerning the church specifically, Paul emphatically declares that Jesus is the head of the whole church (both male and female) in **Colossians 1:18** and **Ephesians 1:22-23**.

The phrase many struggle with is: ***the head of woman is man***. Some see this phrase in far too general terms. There is a distinction many will not see: the Greek terms for “woman” and “man” can be translated in two ways: woman/wife or man/husband. Is every woman subject to “man” in the likeness of every man being subject to Jesus? The obvious answer is: NO! There is only one woman I am “head over” and that is my wife, Sandra. This ordinance merely reflects that principle. From Genesis, Paul reinforced that ancient truth that the husband is head of the wife and then adds in **Ephesians 5:22-24** that Christ is head of the church; therefore the wife is to be in subjection to her head (her husband). Now, if we’ll use the English words in the phrase: ***the head of the wife is the husband***; that makes complete Biblical sense and could stop a lot of abuse that comes from this text!