Well Check wk3: Propriety in Worship

Introduction: There are some passages that are really difficult to understand. The temptation when we face one of those is to skip it, thinking it doesn't apply to us. We want to dig in and find the timeless principle and how to apply it in our context.

Discussion Questions

1. Describe your church background. Did you attend a church that was very formal? Where there rules about what you can wear or how long your hair could be? How do both our church backgrounds and our observed experiences shape how we respond to scripture that might be seen as offensive in our culture?

2. Read **1 Corinthains 11:2-16** Starting in chapter 11, Paul is going to address some problems that are occurring in their gathered worship experience. Let's start with the "head" language. What does he mean when he says the head of man is Christ? What about the head of Christ being God? Does God being the "head of Christ" diminish his equality with God?

3. What are the possible meanings in verse 3 of the "head of the woman is man?" What are things that does not mean and how do we know it doesn't mean those things? Look at verses 11 & 12 – how is the argument or point shifting?

4. How can we know what part of this is a cultural accommodation and what part we are to understand as a timeless principle? Why does it matter that Paul makes a case from creation, before the fall?

5. How can we show distinction between genders without degrading or elevating either? Where have you seen this done well or where have you seen this done poorly?

6. For those that argue that women shouldn't speak/teach/pray in front of the church, how does what Paul say here (vs 5) actually say the opposite? How can we as a church handle this issue well, in a culture that says this teaching is backwards?

Shaping Your Mind – Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. *1 Corinthians 11:11*

Moving Forward – Men and women are both image bearers of God. Honor the distinctions and the designer.