

What Really Matters?

1 Cor 11:2-16

Week of October 15, 2023

BELONG

Ask this Ice Breaker Question: Today we are discussing origins. If you were a superhero like Batman or Superman, how would you tell your own origin story? What are some of your superpowers? Which factors in your life led to the development of your superpowers?

BELIEVE

Have someone in your group read aloud: 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Ask these questions to prompt group discussion:

- 1. This passage tends to get used and misused in conversations about marital relationships and male/female social dynamics. Which parts of this passage seem most puzzling for you?**
- 2. Paul is concerned with two competing tensions in this section: Order and Culture. Which commandments seem to be related to order and which commandments seem to be related to culture?**

Leader Context: *On the one hand, Paul wants the community to function with a sense of order.*

- The head of everyone is Christ.
- Men come from women.
- A woman came from a man.
- Woman is not independent of man.
- Man is not independent of woman.
- Everything comes from God.
- Each of these ideas would be challenged by the broader culture. But they seem fundamental to the Christian worldview Paul is teaching.

On the other hand, Paul wants the community to not bow down to the broader culture's values.

- *Hair length*
- *Head coverings*



- Distinction in genders
- Social well-being and gender roles

3. Paul is concerned about order within community in the issue of gender distinctiveness. Why do you think Paul wants to emphasize and celebrate gender distinctiveness? What implications do you think that has for the church today?

Leader Context: The Church in 2023 certainly has a challenge related to gender issues. But note that even in the early church there were challenges to the issues of gender:

- *The broader Corinthian culture was attempting to blend gender together*
- *Corinthians despised gender distinctives*
- *Corinthians made light of the complementary nature of male and female coming together as family*

BECOME:

4. How do you think your members can better encourage the men and women in your group? How can you improve upon your group dynamic to include women and men in ways not previously considered? How can you celebrate men and women in a way that honors each?