

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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A ‘HAIRY’ SUBJECT

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Long hair on young males has become a serious problem in our society. It has been the cause of conflicts between father and son, teacher and student, employer and employee. Several congregations have been troubled by this ‘hairy’ issue.

In some places elders have decided not to use men with long hair in public worship. Others have taken a passive attitude toward the whole matter. While most seem to be bewildered by it all. A number of older brethren are greatly disturbed by the sight of one with long tresses passing the Lord’s supper.

LONG HAIR IS A SHAME.

But now I suppose nearly everyone in the church knows that Paul said, *“Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him”* (1 Cor. 11:14).

“Nature” here is defined by Thayer as “the native sense of propriety,” (Greek-English Lexicon, p. 660); by Vine, “The regular law or order of nature.” (Expository Dictionary, Vol. 3, p. 103); and by Mr. Vincent as “the recognized constitution of things,” (Word Studies, Vo. 3, p. 248). Albert Barnes says, “The word nature

denotes evidently that sense of propriety which all men have, and which is expressed in any prevailing or universal custom.” (Commentary, p. 207). The prevailing practice of all ages has been for women to wear long hair and men short.

I think most know what “*shame*” means. It is also rendered “dishonor” (ASV); “degrading” (RSV); and “disgrace” (Living Oracles). Mr. Barnes comments: “It is improper and disgraceful, It is doing that which almost universal custom has said appropriately belongs to the female sex.” This same Greek word is used in Romans 1:26 to label homosexuality as “base lusts, vile passions” (Thayer, p. 138). This is not to say that every male with long hair is a pervert; only that both practices are by God’s word described as “degrading” and “disgraceful.”

LONG HAIR IS

WOMANISH. God made “*male and female*” (Mt. 19:4) and has always intended the sexes to be clearly distinguishable. For example, the law of Moses forbade man or woman to wear clothes which pertained to the other as found in Deuteronomy 22:5. Paul gives the length of hair as another distinguishing mark.

Matthew Henry said, “The woman’s hair is a natural covering; to wear it long is a

glory to her; but for a man to have long hair is a token of softness and effeminacy.” (Commentary, p. 1817). “*Effeminate*” is one of those sins which will keep a person from inheriting the kingdom of heaven (1 Cor. 6:9).

If a man’s hair is as long, or longer, than the prevailing custom worn by women, then it is degrading to him. Also, when women crop off their hair (as many older women do) it is a disgrace to them. That which is an honor to women is a dishonor to men.

WHAT IS LONG? Someone invariable asks, “How long is long?” I think most know the answer to that question before asking it. If a man’s hair is so long, or a woman’s so short, as to tend toward obliterating the God required distinction between the sexes, then it is either too long or too short. A little common sense should tell us when a man’s hair begins to hang down the side and curl up at the collar, he badly needs a trim.

WHY SOME WEAR LONG HAIR. Some are ignorant of the Bible teaching on this subject, but most in the church are not. Yet a few still wear long hair. Why?

For most, it is a fad. Young people often have an irresistible craving to conform to the

standard of their peers. The Bible warns: *“And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed”* (Rom. 12:2). Christians must allow God to set their standard, not men.

To some it is a symbol of rebellion and the new morality. Jerry Rubin, a notoriously rabid revolutionist, said in his book — *Do It*, “Young kids identify short hair with authority, discipline, unhappiness, boredom, rigidity, hatred of life — and long hair with letting go... Wherever we go, our long hair tells people where we stand on Vietnam, Wallace, campus disruption, dope. We’re living commercials for revolution... Long hair is the beginning of our liberation from the sexual oppression that underlies the whole military society.”

As Eugene Britnell put it: “Look at the news on television and the pictures in the newspapers and magazines. Any time there is a demonstration, riot, sex orgy, dope party, flag desecration, campus rebellion or lawless mobs you will see that 99 percent of those involved are the long-hairs! I have a collection of pictures to prove

my point. The long hair has become a symbol of rebellion and immorality.” Why would any decent, upright, patriotic young man want his appearance to associate him with such an element of society in the minds of all righteous people? Yes, Why?” (The Sower, June, 1972).

JESUS AND LONG HAIR. A few have sought to justify their flowing locks by claiming that Jesus had long hair. Those who make this assertion should prove it. This no man can do.

According to the Encyclopedia Americana, “the Jews looked upon long hair as a sign of effeminacy.” (Vol. 13, p. 622). Those who took certain vows, as the Nazarite vow (Num. 6), were forbidden to cut their hair; which would indicate that most Jewish men did cut theirs. Jesus was no different than the average Jew of His day in this matter.

INFLUENCE. Some may still insist that they can’t see anything wrong with the length of their hair and therefore it is nobody’s business how they wear it.

If you are a Christian you must always be careful about your influence. We should do nothing that might cause another to stumble. Paul said, *“If meat causeth my brother to stumble, I will eat no flesh for evermore, that I cause not my brother to stumble”* (1 Cor. 8:13, ASV). Jesus pronounced a woe upon anyone who caused another to stumble (Mt. 18:6-7). I heard a man say just a few days ago, “I would not go to church there for too many of them have long hair, including the preacher.”

You know that many who are not even Christians will brand you as a ‘hippy’ if you have long hair. Now, tell me how you expect to be able to lead these people to Christ? If your stubborn persistence on having your way keeps just one soul from being saved, their blood will be upon your hands. Paul said, *“I am become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some”* (1 Cor. 9:20). This should be our attitude.

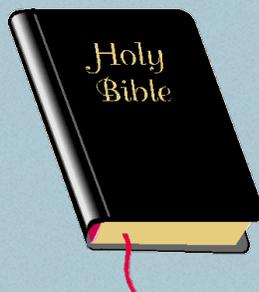
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We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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