

## A Man In Whom Is No Guile

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Technically the face is considered the anterior or front side of the head. We, as laymen, however, distinguish between the face with its many features such as eyes, ears, nose, etc., and the “head” or skull area where ideally, hair generally grows. But medical doctors refer to the areas of the skull, face, and neck as the whole or entire area of the head.

Having said that... is it a stretch to say that our teaching on the prohibition of facial hair is not only morally and culturally acceptable but, technically speaking, biblically correct.?

Paul teaches in 1 Cor. 11:4: Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

Having his “anterior head” (facial area) or the entire head area covered is just as dishonorable and shameful as the actual growing of long hair upon the top of the man’s head.

Paul uses the outward physical symbolism of authority which is the head, to emphasize the importance of spiritual transparency that involves spiritual submission to spiritual authority. A clean and pure heart that is spiritually circumcised or openly uncovered will be physically reflected, therefore, in the face or upon the head of both men and women.

Purity, transparency, and submission unto God’s divinely ordained authority are also symbolized by the distinguished looks of both men and women. A man’s spiritual covering is Christ and is scripturally taught to be symbolized by the distinction of the physical hair covering his entire head. The woman’s spiritual covering is the man’s, and it, too, is distinctly symbolized by the outward physical hair covering her head.

No other coverings manufactured by either the man or woman is needed in worship unto God. This distinctly open-faced purity and scripturally proper physical appearance of transparency before the Lord is required for both genders and is a reflection of the circumcised and open faced-ness of the heart.

It is a dishonorable shame unto them and thereby unacceptable for them to cover their face or head contrary to the scriptures in prayer otherwise, seeing that their heart is to also be open and clean without the veil of flesh or sin interfering in prayer.

The spiritual implications go even further. In Romans 12:9, Paul says: Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Dissimulation is defined as “hypocrisy” in the Greek concordance. Dissimulation in the English thesaurus is defined as a mask, make-up, or “beard.”

Applying the three-fold testing cord of biblical interpretation (scripturally, spiritually, and contextually) subsequent to the overall doctrinal teachings regarding the principle of purity and openness before God, scripture strongly points to no facial hair.

The facial covering of hair would assume the masking of a man’s head before God. A man should not only have short hair, but also he should be clean-shaven in his natural or physical appearance to exemplify the teaching of transparency of spirit before the Lord. The inner man's openness before God is reflected in the outer appearance of short hair and clean faced before God, according to Paul. No hidden spiritual areas or guile-type approach in prayer or even more so in our relationship with God is acceptable.

A man covering up or hiding sin inside his spirit reflects a spiritual deception of the heart. An outward covering of the head is also biblically and symbolically considered to be projecting a false look. We should reflect transparency before God and man, within and without, and Paul uses the physical head of a man as the outer image of that inner transparency.

A beard is, therefore, a man’s makeup. It is his disposition of the covering up of the face by hiding his natural physical appearance to reinvent his looks. Just as women apply makeup in order to mask themselves and project a false image of their natural looks, so men do also whenever they too attempt to cover their clean faced natural looks by growing facial hair.

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