

came to see that, via the headcovering, my husband gets to trade worldly beauty for something that he really desires more: **spiritual security in his most vital earthly relationship**. He comes to see that the inner beauty of his wife charges him to greater fidelity & maturity. The superficial titillation of physical beauty is replaced by heart rest. External adornments won't be tempting other men to flirt with his wife. Once I saw this principle portrayed graphically in a couple that was going through a divorce. The wife was stunning in appearance but also stunningly unfaithful. Her hair was a work of art. On the way to the courtroom the husband said: "Oh, but her hair, it is so beautiful." Still clinging to external beauty, his heart cracked, for it had known no rest.

Second woman: For a long time I had the worldly, Protestant view that wearing veils was outdated & sexist. The world would have us believe that there is something **somehow diminishing** for a woman to wear a veil. I along with so many others in the seventies **bought the lie** that there was something in this that should embarrass us, that somehow the veil signaled a second class place in the world. I now know that it is the outward sign of an internal gesture of reverence to God. It no longer matters what the world, the flesh and the devil try to convince me. I understand that they have no place in my courtesy towards God. **Wearing a veil was never a practice that diminished women in any way, but the world has convinced millions of women that this is the case.** It is enough now to put my veil on as I enter the church to turn my mind and heart toward the tabernacle. Simply put, the placing of my veil on my head is the signal for my heart to begin to greet His Majesty when I enter His house.

Third woman: I have 3 daughters ages 17, 10 & 8. We all cover our heads in the Presence of Our Lord and have for the past 4 years. This has never proven to be an inconvenience; although at one Easter Vigil, having forgotten my veil, I pinned on the last paper towel from the restroom as it was the only thing left in the chapel that was suitable and it was nearly set alight numerous times by the vigil candle of the small boy sitting behind me! I am a former corporate working mom & now a work-at-home mom and homeschooler. **Rather than feeling degraded by covering my head, I feel liberated to be able to publicly express my humility and faith.** In no way do we consider ourselves repressed or somehow "beneath" our menfolk. When assisting at Holy Mass or making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament we make every attempt to wear dresses or skirts & our heads are always

covered. We have even been known to unexpectedly pass by an adoration chapel and go in dressed casually, but our heads are covered. As a married woman I try to dress in a way that pleases my spouse and is yet modest. He is very supportive of our wearing of head coverings as he feels that both Holy Scripture & Tradition are crystal clear on this point. One more note on dress, although many women know that it is inappropriate to wear low-cut necklines and miniskirts, it is also inappropriate to wear sleeveless dresses in the Presence of God. Even young girls with lovely arms should refrain from baring them at Mass.

Fourth woman: I love wearing the Veil. **I always loved being a woman & welcomed things which emphasized that fact.** There is also a feeling of obedience & humility, which, contrary to the distorted views of feminists, made me feel whole & softer. Those are my feelings, and of course, feelings shouldn't dictate our behavior; there is the FACT that St. Paul commanded it.

Fifth woman: I wear a veil for worship & prayer. In all my study of the issue of wearing a veil, it never ceases to amaze me that a little bit of fabric can cause so much contention. As I enter the church & prepare to enter the presence of God it is just a little extra perk to know that God knows my heart & the angels see my submission in the veil.

Unveiling Afghanistan: Remember when Laura Bush became a revolutionary feminist, advocating armed struggle to end "the oppression of Afghan women"? The Western obsession with unveiling Muslim women with one hand, while dropping bombs with the other, has a long & unfortunate history. **More than forty years** ago in his essay "**Algeria Unveiled**" Frantz Fanon began it this way: "The deliberately aggressive intentions of the colonist with respect to the Algerian veil...To the colonialist offensive against the veil..." Fanon continues: "The dominant administration solemnly undertook to defend this woman, pictured as sequestered, humiliated, cloistered...transformed by the Algerian man into an inert, demonetized, indeed dehumanized object." The fantasy that women are inert & passive just because they're wearing a veil says a good deal more about ignorant Western ideas of women than it does about anyone else's. When will armed struggle begin against America's "veiled" Christians? Hello, Laura...you there?

Have you been brainwashed by books, movies, the Net & culture? Be liberated. Cover that beautiful, long hair & wear modest clothes. Come on Christian, Hindu & Muslim women let your inner beauty radiate. Think of all the moral doctrine that can be taught without even saying a word. We honour a piece of cloth called a flag...but what greater honour can there be if we respect a woman with a piece of cloth on her head.

Vile or Veil... 'Tis a point to ponder!

The Christian Veil



A Christian woman: I used to be a rabid feminist, **brainwashed** by books like Ann Moir's "Brain Sex" & all the **rot** that came from "the sisters" during my childhood & adolescence. I quite simply didn't know any better & didn't have the grace to see the beauty of God's plan for the sexes. Even during that time, though, I was attracted to all the "stuff" of being a true Catholic woman. I couldn't explain my attraction, it didn't match my worldview, but I ultimately was jealous of women who seemed so sure of themselves as women. Now I believe in religion & know the reasons for that "unexplainable" longing: **women are simply different from men, and women playing a man's game lose. LOSE.** An obvious fact, I know, but not so obvious to one whose education was in the hands of feminists & modern culture. **When I wear the veil, I feel more womanly somehow, yet paradoxically, more brave & more sure of myself as I truly am: a woman.** It's hard to explain, but in some way it makes me feel less shy. Maybe in the back of my mind I see millions of Catholic women from throughout the eons standing by me, with Mary in front. Our culture is so weird about the sexes. It seems that everything that is masculine in terms of goals is considered "the norm" (while masculinity itself is derided). Feminine goals & the feminine – that is, the truly feminine & the desire of a woman to be a woman & not an imitation man – is mercilessly mocked. **It's OK if you want to be a whore, a stripper, a rodeo clown, a soldier, a prosecuting attorney, an exec at a Fortune 500 Company, but if you just want to be a WOMAN – if you want to be married, raise kids, cook and keep a house, if you like the idea of a man being more powerful than you, if you don't want to compete with your husband, if you want to be treated like a lady – you are considered nothing.** The feminists talk nonsense about "taking back the night"; I say, **let us real women take back the night – and the day, and our homes, and our families, and our lives. Let's be women and be proud of it!**

Christian veiling is a serious matter, one that concerns two millennia of Church Tradition – which extends back to Old Testament tradition & to New Testament admonitions.

For **2,000** years, Catholic women have **veiled** themselves before entering a church or any time they are in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. It was written into the 1917 Code of Canon Law, Canon 1262, that **women must cover their heads** – “especially when they approach the holy table” (mulieres autem, capite cooperto et modeste vestitae, maxime cum ad mensam Dominicam accedunt) – but during the Second Vatican Council, Bugnini was asked by journalists if women would still have to cover their heads. His reply, perhaps innocently enough, was that the issue was **not** being discussed. The journalists (as journalists are wont to do with Church teaching) took his answer as a “no,” and printed their **misinformation** in newspapers all over the world. Since then, many, if not most, Catholic women have lost the tradition. After so many years of many women forgetting or positively repudiating the veil, clerics, **not** wanting to be confrontational or upset radical feminists, pretended the issue didn’t exist. When the 1983 Code of Canon Law was produced, veiling was simply **not** mentioned (**not** abrogated, mind you, but simply not mentioned). So those vile Western people who reject the Islamic veil need to remove their ignorance by examining their own “beloved” Christian tradition.

Cultural collision: Can you imagine anything more antithetical to our culture than a woman wearing a headcovering as a symbol of submission? It causes strong reactions. It may well be a siren. It does **not** find its way atop a woman’s head by accident. It is a deliberate act. An act of obedience to God.

Independence, assertiveness training, feminism, women’s rights – these are the objectives the modern woman has struggled to obtain, has defined over & over, has celebrated in college courses & career workshops & has buttressed with political action. We can’t imagine a woman choosing to submit to her husband, a mere mortal who is full of weaknesses & saying that she likes it. That’s enough to make us splutter, gasp & choke (at least inwardly). What are you doing with that thing on your head? Take it off. This is unconscionable. Rude. We were united in working for these rights, remember? All women feel this way.

Don’t be the oddball woman who slips from the ranks and says, “No thanks” to all that **progress**. If you have to do it, do it in the privacy of your own home. Just don’t wear that symbol out in public. It’s inflammatory!

What is this thing called a headcovering that godly women have worn for centuries & that modern Christian women are beginning to wear today? Why do they wear it? Is it supposed to be worn at church, or all the time? Is her hair a covering, or is the New Testament headcovering worn over the hair? Is it an actual piece of fabric? Wasn’t it just a cultural thing back then? Isn’t it legalistic to wear one? These questions are beginning to heave in the chests of many sobered Christian women as they view the carnage of broken homes in America, including churchgoing families.

St. Paul wrote: 1 Corinthians 11:1-17: Be ye followers of me, as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that in all things you are mindful of me and keep my ordinances as I have delivered them to you. But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ: and the head of the woman is the man: and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying with his head covered disgraceth his head. **But every woman praying or prophesying with her head NOT covered disgraceth her head:** for it is all one as if she were shaven. For if a woman be **not** covered, let her be shorn. But if it be a shame to a woman to be shorn or made bald, **let her cover her head**. The man indeed ought not to cover his head: because he is the image and glory of God. But the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man [c.f. Genesis 2-3]. You yourselves judge. **Doth it become a woman to pray unto God uncovered?** Doth not even nature itself teach you that a man indeed, if he nourish his hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman nourish her hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering. According to St. Paul, women veil as a sign that His glory, not theirs, should be the focus at worship & as a sign of submission to authority. It is an outward sign of recognizing headship, both of God & the husbands (or fathers, as the case may be).

The veil, too, is a sign of modesty & chastity. In Old Testament times, uncovering a woman’s head was seen as a way to humiliate a woman or to punish adulteresses and those women who transgressed the Law (Numbers 5:12-18, Isaiah 3:16-17, Song of Solomon 5:7). A Hebrew woman wouldn’t have dreamed of entering the Temple (or later, the synagogue) without covering her head. This practice is simply carried on by the Church (as it is also by Orthodox Christians and even by “Orthodox” women of the post-

Temple Jewish religion today).

Note what Paul says, “But if a woman nourish her hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.” Women don’t veil themselves because of some “primordial” sense of feminine shame; they are covering their glory so that He may be glorified instead. They cover themselves because they are holy – and because feminine beauty is incredibly powerful. Consider how the image of “woman” is used to sell everything from shampoo to used cars. Women need to understand the power of the feminine and act accordingly by following the rules of modest attire, including the use of the veil.

And who is veiled in the Christian religion? Who is the All Holy, the Ark of the New Covenant, the Vessel of the True Life? **Maryam** – by wearing the veil, women imitate this most chaste being and affirm themselves as women, as vessels of life.

The Archbishop of Lagos, Cardinal Anthony Okogie, under the heading “nudity”, calls on priests **not** to allow in church “fashions promoting lust & immorality.” He says that any of the faithful wearing “clothes which reveal sensitive parts of the body such as the bust, chest, belly, or upper arms, transparent clothing or dresses with slits above the knees” should be “quietly asked to worship outside.” As for boys, it says there should be no “long curly hair, tight jeans or earrings.”

Catholics’ views on Veiling: A man: Veils? I am most jealous of a woman’s outward sign of humility to the presence of Our Lord. All I can do is genuflect & bow my head to show my reverence. I remember my mother & all the women of the church as a child wearing veils. Having grown up with that...makes wearing a veil seem normal. The first time I took my middle son to a Traditional Mass, he was, “creeped out” by the veils and thought I had taken him to a totally different religion. (Speaks volumes to the changes that have occurred under Vatican II...huh?)

Several Christian women express their opinions on the veil. **First woman:** Wilting beauty but faithful heart. Initially I was worried about the loss of external beauty for my husband. I had been taught that men like to have a gorgeous wife on their arm. I felt that I was far from that in the natural, so it took work. I wanted to be as lovely as possible for him. But then I

The angels said:

“Maryam, Allah has **chosen** you & **purified** you. He has chosen you **over** all other women.”

(Quran, 3:42)