

10-c-2

5. You asked for an explanation of 1 Corinthians 11: 5,6, and then you ask if women should not wear some sort of covering for their hair now. Dealing with this from the Spirit of Prophecy standpoint, Sister White has given no counsel that the women should wear a covering over their hair while attending services. She herself spoke with her head uncovered, as is attested to by two action pictures we have of Sister White, one of her speaking at the General Conference of 1901 as pictured in Ellen G. White, Messenger to the Remnant, which we are sending to you, on page 112, and also another picture taken while she was speaking at the dedication of the Loma Linda Sanitarium in 1906. Should you be taking the Prophetic Guidance Correspondence Course, and have the Spirit of Prophecy Treasure Chest which is the textbook, you will find a picture of this occasion on page 176.

As to 1 Corinthians 11: 5,6, there are certain admonitions in the word of God given in meeting some special situation which must be taken in the light of the customs which prevailed. In Corinth, a modest woman would not go abroad with her head uncovered, for she would be a disgrace to herself and to her husband if she were to appear publicly without a veil. Consequently, the apostle Paul here was admonishing that Christians with the new-found liberty in Christ which came to them would not be careless, nor would they turn from that which was expected of a woman at that time, in the way of her attire and grooming.

Please turn to the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Vol. 6, pp. 755-6 for comment on this point, which is somewhat in the same category as the command that was given to Moses that he should take off his shoes because he was on holy ground. A man does not, today, take off his shoes when he enters a church; rather he removes his hat, for that is the token today of respect, while back in the days of Moses, the shoes were removed. And indeed, in some countries of the world today, the shoes are taken off when one goes into a house of worship. The Christian will conform to that which is expected of a Christian, in the countries where he may be. The principle of the instruction is clear, but its application varies under different circumstances.