

Understanding 1 Corinthians 11:1–16

What does the Bible say about hair?

(not including the 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 passage)

Ezekiel 44:20 (re: the Levites during the Millennium)

Also they shall not shave their heads, yet they shall not let their locks grow long; they shall only trim *the hair of* their heads.

Leviticus 19:27

You shall not round off the side-growth of your heads nor harm the edges of your beard.

1 Peter 3:1-6

1. In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,
2. as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.
3. Your adornment must not be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;
4. but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.
5. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;
6. just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

9. Likewise, *I want* women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,
10. but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

Numbers 6:1-21

1. Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
2. "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When a man or woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to dedicate himself to the LORD,
3. he shall abstain from wine and strong drink; he shall drink no vinegar, whether made from wine or strong drink, nor shall he drink any grape juice nor eat fresh or dried grapes.
4. 'All the days of his separation he shall not eat anything that is produced by the grape vine, from *the seeds even to the skin*.
5. 'All the days of his vow of separation no razor shall pass over his head. He shall be holy until the days are fulfilled for which he separated himself to the LORD; he shall let the locks of hair on his head grow long.
6. 'All the days of his separation to the LORD he shall not go near to a dead person.
7. 'He shall not make himself unclean for his father or for his mother, for his brother or for his sister, when they die, because his separation to God is on his head.
8. 'All the days of his separation he is holy to the LORD.
9. 'But if a man dies very suddenly beside him and he defiles his dedicated head *of hair*, then he shall shave his head on the day when he becomes clean; he shall shave it on the seventh day.
10. 'Then on the eighth day he shall bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the priest, to the doorway of the tent of meeting.
11. 'The priest shall offer one for a sin offering and *the other* for a burnt offering, and make atonement for him concerning his sin because of the *dead* person. And that same day he shall consecrate his head,
12. and shall dedicate to the LORD his days as a Nazirite, and shall bring a male lamb a year old for a guilt offering; but the former days will be void because his separation was defiled.
13. 'Now this is the law of the Nazirite when the days of his separation are fulfilled, he shall bring the offering to the doorway of the tent of meeting.
14. 'He shall present his offering to the LORD: one male lamb a year old without defect for a burnt offering and one ewe-lamb a year old without defect for a sin offering and one ram without defect for a peace offering,
15. and a basket of unleavened cakes of fine flour mixed with oil and unleavened wafers spread with oil, along with their grain offering and their drink offering.
16. 'Then the priest shall present *them* before the LORD and shall offer his sin offering and his burnt offering.
17. 'He shall also offer the ram for a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD, together with the basket of unleavened cakes; the priest shall likewise offer its grain offering and its drink offering.
18. 'The Nazirite shall then shave his dedicated head *of hair* at the doorway of the tent of meeting, and take the dedicated hair of his head and put *it* on the fire which is under the sacrifice of peace offerings.
19. 'The priest shall take the ram's shoulder *when it has been* boiled, and one unleavened cake out of the basket and one unleavened wafer, and shall put *them* on the hands of the Nazirite after he has shaved his dedicated *hair*.
20. 'Then the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the LORD. It is holy for the priest, together with the breast offered by waving and the thigh offered by lifting up; and afterward the Nazirite may drink wine.'
21. "This is the law of the Nazirite who vows his offering to the LORD according to his separation, in addition to what *else* he can afford; according to his vow which he takes, so he shall do according to the law of his separation."

Judges 13:2-5

2. There was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had borne no *children*.
3. Then the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold now, you are barren and have borne no *children*, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son.
4. “Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing.
5. “For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”

Judges 16:17

So he told her all *that was* in his heart and said to her, “A razor has never come on my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaved, then my strength will leave me and I will become weak and be like any *other* man.”

1 Samuel 1:10-11

10. She, greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.
11. She made a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.”