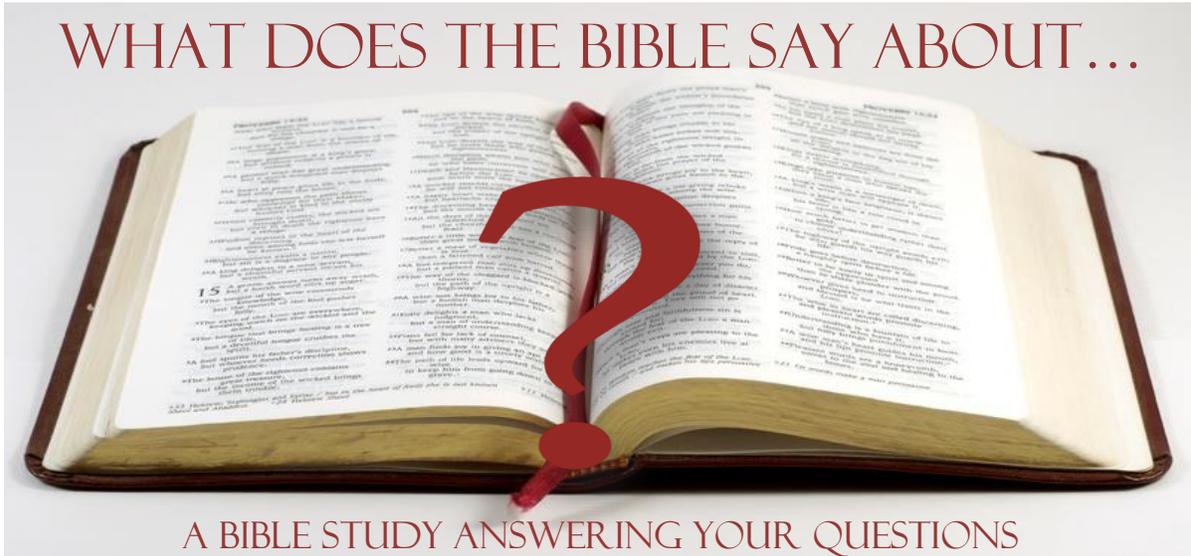


WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT...



A BIBLE STUDY ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Lesson 10

Is it OK to have paintings or figurines that depict angels, or other scenes like the last supper etc...?

What about men having long hair?

Paintings and/or figurines of Biblical things

The Bible is very specific in the Old Testament about this topic.

Although I might be able to just answer this question quickly by saying, it's OK to have figurines and paintings as long as you don't worship them, however, there is more to talk about here than meets the eye.

Exodus 20:4-5 ⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of *any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: ⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me;

Two important facts in this commandment:

1. Any likeness, of anything, that is in heaven or earth, thou shall not bow down, nor serve them.

2. Bow down = worship.

So, what if you don't worship them? What if you have a figurine of an angel, a painting of the last supper, a painting of Jesus, etc...?

Under the instructions of Moses himself, figures of cherubim, brazen serpents, oxen, and many other things in the earth beneath, were made and not condemned.

Numbers 21:9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

Later Israel began to worship that serpent. It had to be destroyed with other idols.

2 Kings 18:4 He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.

The mere making was not sin; it was the making with the intent to give idolatrous worship.

The worship of God was to be spiritual, not material. Israel was forbidden from worshiping idols and from making images of God.

Since God is spiritual, no material representation can possibly resemble Him.

To make an idol (an object of worship or devotion) of God or like something in the sky (sun, moon, stars), **or on the earth** (animals), **or in the waters below** (fish, or other sea life) was forbidden because God is **a jealous God** (Ex. 20:4-5; Deut. 5:9; 6:15; 32:16, 21; Josh. 24:19), that is, He is zealous that devotion be given exclusively to Him.

A question needs to be asked at this point: What about images such as pictures, crosses, statues, and other symbols that are used to stir our memories to pray and worship?

Is this commandment speaking against such images?

There is a tendency within human nature to focus upon that which is “seen” instead of upon the “unseen”; a tendency to fix our attention upon the “seen” object instead of upon God.

If we use visible objects to arouse us to pray and worship, there is great danger.

What about having figurines such as angels? Again, if you're not worshiping it, then it might be OK. However, we humans have a tendency to spiritualize inanimate things. Angels are not to be worshiped or be an object of our devotions.

Angels can't answer your prayers. They are not to be prayed to.

This also brings us to statues of saints and crucifixes. Individuals like Peter, Paul, Mary (Jesus' mother), and the many other individuals who we may admire for their ministries or lives, are not to be worshiped. Saints are not to be worshiped. Having statues of them and certainly praying to the saints is Idolatry.

I don't believe in having a crucifix; Jesus is not longer on the cross. I also don't believe in wearing a cross as it falls into the category of Jewelry, and people tend to believe it will protect them, thus, Idolatry.

What about a painting of Jesus?

I won't tell you it's bad or good, but I could guarantee you this...Jesus didn't look like that. It's an artist's imagination or rendition.

So, to sum it up, having figurines, paintings, etc..., may not be bad or wrong as long as they are not worshipped. But, I add a word of caution, something seemingly innocent can be a problem in the future.

Pagan Beliefs/Witchcraft:

Many Christians don't even know that they are using witchcraft or are involved in it.

What are some things that some Christians do that are associated with witchcraft?

- Burning candles to ward off evil spirits.
- Placing an egg and herbs around a sick child.

- Healing with crystals or gems.
- Some people put a bracelet with a black or red fist on it (***Figa Clenched Red or Black Fist Brazilian Charm of Luck and Protection***) on a newborns to ward off evil spirits or envious look from people.
- If a woman watched a lunar eclipse during pregnancy, their baby will have a cleft lip.

This ancient myth has been traced back to the Aztecs. They believed that an eclipse was a bite on the face of the moon. If a mother watched it, the same thing would happen to her baby. For protection, the mom must carry something metallic, such as a safety pin, on her underwear. The truth is that a cleft palate is caused by a blend of genetic and environmental factors that in no way include the planets.

Some herbal remedies, may have pagan practices associated with them:

The use of herbs for healing, as well as magic; the art of controlling one's own mind through study, meditation, and practice; the control of one's body, through yoga, bio-feedback, and moving meditations; the performance of Rituals and Rite.

Can you add to the list?

Some of these practices may be cultural. This should not be an excuse.

Herbs for healing

OK, now I made some of you mad.

Is adding lemon to your tea bad?

Are herbs bad?

No, many herbs are helpful to the immune system, and help the healing process. But, don't take it for granted that what your grandmother's

grandmother passed down to you is anything more or less than superstition. **Do some homework...**

Even an overabundant love of nature can be rooted in witchcraft.

Witchcraft is practiced by people all over the world, from all walks of life, all colors, ages, and genders. Most don't even know they are doing it. Fortune telling, in whatever form it takes, is idolatry and witchcraft.

Witchcraft is still witchcraft even if a Christian is doing it.

In short, I recommend that you look at anything that may have been handed down to you from friends and/or family that may be witchcraft and you may not even know it.

What about men having long hair?

1 Corinthians 11:3-16 ³ 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. ⁴ Every man praying or prophesying, having *his* head covered, dishonoureth his head. ⁵ But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with *her* head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. ⁶ For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. ⁷ For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. ⁸ For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. ⁹ Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. ¹⁰ For this cause ought the woman to have power on *her* head because of the angels. ¹¹ Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. ¹² For as the woman *is* of the man, even so *is* the man also by the woman; but all things of God. ¹³ Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? ¹⁴ Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? ¹⁵ But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for *her* hair is given her for a covering. ¹⁶ But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Is it OK for a man to have long hair, since Jesus had long hair?

Did Jesus have long hair? _____

All we have are artist renditions of what Jesus looked like. These are not accurate.

Archeologists have unearthed statues and other artifacts that have proven men of the time when Jesus was alive, for the most part, had short hair.

How long is long and how short is short? Now that's the question.

1 Cor. 11:14 says it's a shame for a man to have long hair.

As stated above, "the covering" is the "hair". Verse 15 clearly states that the hair is the covering.

So, in short, most of chapter 11, is about "headship".

When a man prays or prophesies, when he approaches God, his hair is to be short; this is out of respect and reverence toward God. It's an act of submission.

The woman, according to these verses, is to have long hair. This is an act of submission to her husband and reverence toward God.

Verse 15 says " But if a woman have long hair, **it is a glory to her:** for *her* hair is given her **for a covering** ".

The word "covering" as it relates to women means: to hide, veil, to cover wholly.

Here's an interesting thought: Verse 10, For this cause ought the woman to have power on *her* head because of the angels.

When a woman approaches God with her head covered (long hair), the angels take notice. Why?

This is an act of submission to God and her husband.

Submission is in opposition to what satan did when he thought he should be worshiped like God. Rebellion is what satan did.

So, submission shouts a message that humans and spiritual forces hear clearly. I am submitted and committed to God and His Word.

The same applies to men, when they keep their hair short they shout to the world and the heavens, "I am submitted to my head, God".

Interestingly, I was talking to someone who does hiring for a very large employer. He said to me, although he cannot discriminate, when he interviews men who have long hair, he knows that they will have a tendency to "have disrespect to and for authority". (Off the record, he avoids hiring men who have long hair.)

So, how long is long and how short is short?

1 Cor. 11:5-6⁵ But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with *her* head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.
⁶ For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

Shorn here comes from (Keiro) which means to "shear" or "cut".

"...but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn (shear / cut) or shaven, let her be covered."

Long hair is uncut.

Short hair is cut.

For men, some might argue that cut is short. I would argue that short is to not cover his head. Also, short, can be, but is not limited to, what society would consider short, which is not covering the neck and shoulders.

1 Corinthians 11:7 For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

Man you give God Glory and show your submission to Him by having short hair. Your wife and family will be blessed because of your submission.

The word covered for men means, down, against, touching. Thus, touching the shoulders or neck would be long.

The word cover for men means **not to** cover wholly, or to hide.

Lastly, please understand this teaching is for people who are in the church, living for God.

Please don't go out and find a man who is not living for God and tell him he is sinning because he has long hair. If you're going to tell him anything, tell him Jesus loves him and wants to live inside him. Share the Gospel with him.