

Here's the answer we have used in the past:

Thank you for your question concerning whether or not a woman should wear a covering on her head in church.

The Church of God teaches that a woman does not need to wear a hat, a veil or any other type of head covering in order to attend its church services.

There are differing points of view expressed in commentaries on whether the apostle Paul, in 1 Corinthians 11:5-15, was referring to a woman's long hair or to a veil or other head covering associated with contemporary standards of honor. In either case, it is agreed in the Church of God that this scripture does not enjoin the wearing of hats or veils today. When properly understood, this scripture has nothing to say about wearing hats or veils. The subject of that passage is about woman's hair (verse 15). A woman's hair, as a covering, is an indication that she is willing to be in subjection to God and her husband, and that she acknowledges her special need for protection by the angels.

The Church does recognize, however, that dress styles and matters of honor are not the same in every country or society around the world. Whenever a Christian is a guest of a community in which these standards differ from those of his or her own society, care should be taken not to give any unnecessary offense in the matters of style of dress and deportment.

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