

# CHRISTIAN WOMEN Pt.9: UNVEILED HAIR, LONG HAIR, FALLEN ANGELS, FANCY HAIRSTYLES, BRAIDES

I ran across some comments in researching ancient hairstyles that I'd like to share here. I believe this site was discussing the Victorian era which wasn't that long ago.



**Lida Rose**

reads books · Author has **1.3K** answers and **3.1M** answer views · Updated 3y

Permitted? No, you would not get arrested. But hats, headgear, and hair styles have always signaled status pretty much anywhere you look, at any time in history for both men and women. We have freedoms now that were literally inconceivable just a few years ago.

In Victorian England, middle- and upper-class gentlemen wore hats in public or outdoors; they took them off when they came indoors. They tipped their hat to someone on the street. Lower-class men removed their cap or hat in the presence of their "betters."

By the same token, women's hair styles and head coverings signaled status and class as much as your clothes or your accent. Girls wore their hair down or in braids. When girls became women, they put their hair up. This might be when you "come out" into society. Or it might be when you become engaged or married. It was a rite of passage into adulthood, into sexual maturity. The middle and upper classes observed this convention rigidly.

You might see a spinster still wearing her hair down. It was assumed she was a virgin and had never attained sexual maturity. She was an object of pity and she lived under the protection of some male relative: her brother or a sister's husband, etc.

A woman who went out in public with her hair down or even without her head covered was advertising that she was a prostitute. You would not get arrested, but you might be approached by a man who assumed you are for sale.

I believe she initially is speaking to having your hair down.

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Look at that! Just from how the hair was worn you could be assumed to be a prostitute! I think this helps us to understand better what was going on in Corinth with the debate about long hair and covering the hair or no covering or cutting the hair.

Headgear was more flexible for working-class women since they might not be able to afford hats. If you didn't have a cap or hat, you might pull your shawl up over your head when you went out in public. But even the poorest women put their hair up somehow.

This is one of my pet peeves about so many TV shows and movies set during this period: married women with their hair down outside their bedroom. This would just never have happened.

During the Great War, all the social conventions people had taken for granted for centuries started to unravel. Women started bobbing their hair. It was an act of rebellion. When young men started letting their hair grow long in the 1960s, people called them girlie. When people in France wanted to shame the women who'd been accused of collaborating with the Nazis, they shaved their heads. When women became nuns, their heads were shaved and covered with a habit. Hair has always been used to label women. Even today, if you see a woman with a pink mohawk, what do you assume about her?

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By the time I grew up, there wasn't so much stigmatism on having short hair. I praise God for that! I certainly have never thought of it as a sign of rebellion.

Look at everything that was tied to hair and how you wore it. It does seem that shame was always assumed in the case of a woman with a shaved head.



**Therese Oneill**

NYT Bestselling Author of *Unmentionable* and *Ungovernable* · Upvoted by Sonia Fanucchi, I have just submitted a PhD in Victorian fiction · Updated 3y

Oh, the hair came down. At night, for your husband. And it was sexy and intimate, a kind of nudity meant only for your beloved. Utterly feminine, your crowning glory.

Hair was a different texture than we know today...it was rarely washed, and when it was most "shampoo" recipes called for things like ammonia and boric acid. However it wasn't greasy and dirty like ours would be if WE went six weeks without washing it. Because it was brushed at the end of the day: like a horse is brushed at the end of a hard ride.

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That's why old fashioned hairbrushes are so soft and useless-looking...they weren't designed to untangle or style, they were designed to remove dirt and soot and excess grease while distributing the rest of your natural scalp oil down, down down, through your long hair. The comb was for damage control and yes, lice (nit) removal.



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Women cut their hair for two main reasons. Becoming so sick that they were bedridden and couldn't take care of it...making it a tangled dreadlock full of lice. Or in extreme poverty, because wigs were very popular and a nice head of hair went for a good price.



**Lynn Oddy**

Retired (2012–present) · Author has **10K** answers and **2.4M** answer views · 4y

The Victorians were very gender conscious. For a woman to cut her hair short was as bad as wearing trousers - she was cross-dressing.

Wearing your hair loose was something young girls did, not respectable women. An adult woman with her hair loose in public was inviting sexual attention - she was probably a whore.



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your hair loose was something young girls did, not respectable women. An adult woman with her hair loose in public was inviting sexual attention – she was probably a whore.

Wow! I cleared up the whole misconception about wearing pants already. Now I'm working on the issue of long hair, short hair, cutting hair etc. Notice she said those with their hair down were young girls. All other women were inviting sexual attention.

### **BECAUSE OF THE ANGELS??**

**1 Cor.11:10** - For this cause (For this reason) ought the woman to have power on *her* head (to have authority over her own head) because of the angels.

The word used for angel in the Greek also means messenger. One interpretation of that passage is that the “angels” mentioned are actually messengers, who are teaching incorrectly in the church. Paul says because of their wrong teaching, women should be given authority to make their own decision about what they wear or don't wear on their head. Paul is rejecting the traditions they are promoting.

### **ANOTHER TAKE ON “BECAUSE OF THE ANGELS”**

There are good and bad angels or fallen angels.

**2 Cor. 11:14** – And no marvel; for satan himself is transformed into an angel of light (transformed into a messenger of light).

Paul said to give women authority over their own heads because of the angels. The angels mentioned here are not holy angels, but fallen ones.

The book of Enoch, which is not in our Bibles, but I believe does have truth in it, tells of many things that the fallen angels taught mankind, many of those things were wicked or used in unrighteous ways. This was the basis for the early church condemning the fallen angels.

St. Paul said that women should cover their head in the synagogue (Corinthians: 11:5-6). This was because the fallen angels were supposed to be attracted to

human females with long flowing hair. The custom of women covering their hair in churches is still found in Roman Catholicism and also in the customs of Islam which are false religions.

It seems that women kept their hair up or covered in ancient times. As we have learned this was cultural and traditional, as well it seems there was another aspect to all of it. THE FALLEN ANGELS.

Hair was not washed as often as we do today. They went for long periods of times before washing it. The hair being down was not as common as what we see today. We are used to seeing women's hair down all the time. We don't determine marital status by the appearance of the hair or how it is worn. We don't determine social class or rank by the appearance of the hair and how it is fixed either.

I would say that if the fallen angels were attracted to the long hair it is because hair being worn down was not as common back then. And because it was rarely ever down, it became even more sensual to see it down. In some of the old movies, women wore the long dresses or skirts down to the floor. And sometimes they will show the woman do something where the male actor sees her ankle or the calf of her leg and makes a big deal about it. Remember when we read about Ham seeing Noah, his father naked and sometimes to us today it can seem like no big deal. To see their father, a man of the same sex they were, naked. But they were not as free about seeing and being seen as we have become today. We do show a lot more skin than it seems they used to.





Statuette of a Running Gorgon, 540 BC. We see Medusa before Perseus reaches her: A Greek female in the sixth century BC wearing long hair usually represented a maiden, which was Medusa's previous status. Here she has abundant long textured hair, both sinuous and segmented to describe wavy texture. In later Greek art, her hair will appear as intertwined snakes coiling and writhing across her head. She was beautiful at one point because she refused the advances of Poseidon and so he raped her. Because she was a virgin devoted to the temple and goddess Athena, Athena cursed her and that is how she got snakes for hair and eyes that would turn men to stone.

I wanted to share this so you could see that in ancient cultures, usually young girls and unmarried maidens would leave their hair down. Now we know that Medusa and Perseus are in the fallen angel fallout. But we are talking about Corinth who worshipped the fallen angels and they have all these questions about hair.



Apparently in ancient times, and even before Paul's time, it seems that the letting down of the hair was sensual and this played a part in the fallen angels being attracted to the beautiful long hair of a woman. The idea that they only sought out those with uncovered heads, meaning single women, is lost on me because they are evil and they do not abide by any rules.

**From The Pulpit Commentary:**



sign of her husband's authority over her. Similarly the traveller Chardin says that in Persia the women wear a veil, in sign that they are "under subjection." If so, the best comment on the word may be found in the exquisite lines of Milton, which illustrate the passage in other ways also -

"She, as a veil, down to the slender waist  
Her unadorned golden tresses wore...  
As the vine curves her tendrils, which implied  
Subjection, but required with gentle sway,

And by her yielded, by him best received." The fact that Callistratus twice uses **exousia** of "abundance of hair" is probably a mere coincidence, resembling the Irish expression "a power of hair." Nor can there be any allusion to the isolated fact that Samson's strength lay in his hair. The very brief comment of Luther sums up all the best of the many pages which have been written on the subject. He says that **exousia** means "the veil or covering, by which one may see that she is under her husband's authority" (Genesis 3:16). **Because of the angels.** In this clause also we must set aside, as idle waste of time, the attempts to alter the text, or to twist the plain words into impossible meanings. The word "angels" cannot mean "Church officials," or "holy men," or "prophets," or "delegates," or "bridegroom's men," or anything but angels. Nor can the verse mean, as Bengel supposes, that women are to veil themselves because the angels do so (Isaiah 6:2), or (as Augustine says) because the angels approve of it. The only question is whether the allusion is to good or bad angels. In favour of the latter view is

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The fact that Callistratus twice uses **exousia** of "abundance of hair" is probably mere coincidence, resembling the Irish expression "a power of hair." Sort of like saying a "powerful lot of hair." Nor can there be any allusion to the isolated fact that Samson's strength lay in his hair. The very brief comment of Luther sums up all the best of the many pages which have been written on the subject. He says that **exousia** means "the veil or covering, by which one may see that she is under her husband's authority" (Genesis 3:16). **Because of the angels.** In this clause also we must set aside, as idle waste of time the attempts to alter the text, or to twist the plain words into impossible meanings. The word "angels" cannot mean "church officials," or "holy men," or "prophets," or "delegates," or "bridegroom's men," or anything but angels. Nor can the verse mean, as Bengel supposes, that women are to veil themselves because the angels do so (Isaiah 6:2), or (as

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the universal tradition among the Jews that the angels fell by lust for mortal women, which was the Jewish way of interpreting [Genesis 6:1, 2](#). This is the view of Tertullian ('De Virg. Vel.' 7) in writing on this subject. A woman, in the opinion and traditions of Oriental Jews, is liable to injury from the **shedim**, if she appears in public unveiled; and these evil spirits are supposed to delight in the appearance of unveiled women. The objection to this view, that **angeloi** alone is never used of evil but always of good angels, is not perhaps decisive (see [1 Corinthians 6:3](#)). The verse may, however, mean (in accordance with the Jewish belief of those days) that good angels, being under the possibility of falling from the same cause as their evil brethren, fly away at once from the presence of unveiled women. Thus Khadijah tested that the visitant of her husband Mohammed really was the angel Gabriel, because he disappeared the moment she unveiled her head. On the whole, however, the meaning seems to be, **out of respect and reverence for the holy angels, who are always invisibly present in the Christian assemblies**. (On this point, see [Luke 15:10](#); [Ephesians 3:10](#); [Hebrews 1:14](#); [Hebrews 12:1](#); [Ecclesiastes 5:6](#); [Psalm 138:1](#) [LXX.]; [Tobit 12:12](#). See Latimer's 'Sermons,' p. 253). "Reverence the angels" is St. Chrysostom's remark.

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I certainly don't think it had anything to do with respecting angels. However, I do believe there is a link with the fallen angels being attracted to the long loose hair.

Let's look at our passage again from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter.

**1 Peter 3:3-4** - Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair (braiding the hair or fancy hairstyles), and of wearing of gold (expensive

jewelry), or of putting on of apparel (beautiful clothes); But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart (inner beauty), in that which is not corruptible (the unfading beauty), *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

We have talked about jewelry already and beautiful clothes.



Now let's look at the hair. This is Elizabeth Taylor in her role as Cleopatra. Her hair was braided all over like Bo Derek in the movie "10." This is a show stopper. Her hair and makeup are very elaborate. Way over the top. This is a picture of a total seductress, wanting men to lust after her.



Modern Braiding Styles

**CLOSING**



Here are some more braiding styles from our time. These are very beautiful. You might do something like this on your wedding day or a special occasion. But in general, this should not be your every day look. If you cannot leave the house without doing up your makeup or spending a lot of time on your hair, be careful that you are not making an idol out of these things.

Many of these hair do's take a lot of time. Think about what God values. Let's spend more time feeding our spirit man and growing in the faith than we do on our outward appearance.

## **PRAYER**



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Roman\\_hairstyle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Roman_hairstyle)

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Women's hair, braids, ancient styles etc.

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