

Which position on the head-coverings issue (third & fourth columns) would make the most sense of 1 Corinthians 11:6?

1 Cor. 11:6 Greek NT	1 Cor. 11:6 AV-KJV	1 Cor. 11:6 “covering” is only a woman’s long hair	1 Cor. 11:6 “covering” is a fabric head-covering, over the “covering” of long hair
<p>εἰ γὰρ οὐ κατακαλύπτεται γυνή, καὶ κειράσθω· εἰ δὲ αἰσχρὸν γυναικὶ τὸ κείρασθαι ἢ ξυρᾶσθαι, κατακαλυπτέσθω.</p>	<p>“For if the woman be not covered¹, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.”</p>	<p>“For if the woman will not have long hair, let her also cut her hair short²: but if it be a shame for a woman to have short-cut hair or to be shaved bald, let her have long hair.”</p>	<p>“For if the woman will not wear a hat³, let her also cut her hair short: but if it be a shame for a woman to have short-cut hair or to be shaved bald, let her wear a hat.”</p>

¹ Or, “will not be covered”

² On this rendering, the women in Corinth *were already wearing* long hair and so complying with Paul’s directions, or the threat ‘let her then cut her hair short or shave her head’ would be meaningless. If, however, it is assumed that women were coming to church with their hair cut short and Paul was correcting them for that, then the same threat is also meaningless: “If you insist on having short hair, well then, you might as well just have short hair. But if you don’t want that, well then you should grow your hair out.”

³ I am not at all suggesting that wearing a brimmed hat is the only way for a woman to cover her head in public worship (though that is my preference for my ladies). But I render Paul’s verb as “wear a hat” to make things especially clear since the other view takes the “head covering” as simply long hair.