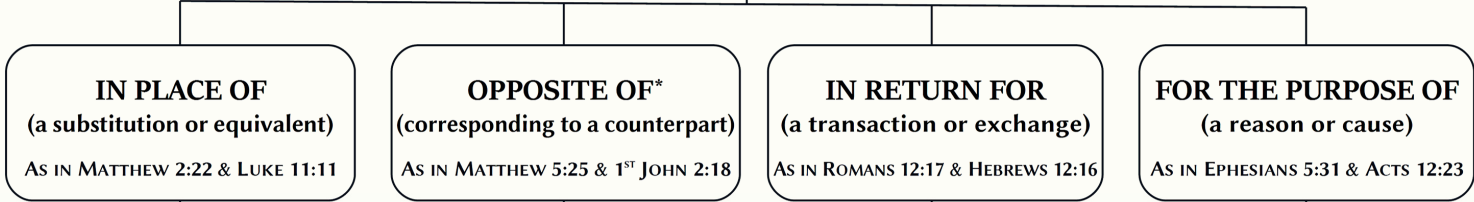


FIRST CORINTHIANS 11:15

IF A WOMAN HAS LONG HAIR, IT IS A GLORY TO HER, BECAUSE HER HAIR IS GIVEN TO HER FOR A COVERING

ἡ κόμη ἄντι περιβολαίου δέδοται αὐτῇ
 hē komē anti peribolaίου dedotai autē
 HER HAIR, FOR A COVERING, HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HER

Four Primary Definitions of the word ἄντι during Paul's lifetime



IN PLACE OF
 (a substitution or equivalent)
 AS IN MATTHEW 2:22 & LUKE 11:11

“HER HAIR IN PLACE OF A COVERING HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HER.”

CONTEXT INDICATORS

(A) In verse 6, a woman is missing both her hair *and* a headcovering. (B) While hair is “worn” continually, the headcovering is worn only for prayer & prophesy. (C) In verse 15, “covering” is a completely different Greek word than “covered” in the rest of the passage.

These details indicate that hair does **not substitute** for a headcovering.

This definition of ἄντι does **not** fit the context.

OPPOSITE OF*
 (corresponding to a counterpart)
 AS IN MATTHEW 5:25 & 1ST JOHN 2:18

“HER HAIR CORRESPONDING TO A COVERING HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HER.”

CONTEXT INDICATORS

The biblical use of headcoverings (for prayer and prophesy) began in the New Testament. Long hair, though, is “natural” (verse 14) and was thus was “given” by God at the time of Creation.

Here, the *reason* that long hair is a glory is “because” long hair **corresponds to** a headcovering.

But at Creation there were no headcoverings to correspond to (and thus no natural glory).

This definition of ἄντι does **not** fit the context.

IN RETURN FOR
 (a transaction or exchange)
 AS IN ROMANS 12:17 & HEBREWS 12:16

“HER HAIR IN RETURN FOR A COVERING HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HER.”

CONTEXT INDICATORS

There is no **exchange** or **transaction** described in this section of 1st Corinthians 11.

This definition of ἄντι does **not** fit the context.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF
 (a reason or cause)
 AS IN EPHESIANS 5:31 & ACTS 12:23

“HER HAIR FOR THE PURPOSE OF A COVERING HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HER.”

CONTEXT INDICATORS

Under this definition, God gave women long hair **for the purpose of** covering their heads, in order to provide a natural “glory.”

In verse 14, Paul also states that having long hair is (by nature) a disgrace for a man.

This definition of ἄντι **does fit** the context.

In context, Paul is identifying a gender-based connection between natural hair lengths and the Christian use of headcoverings. He teaches that just as a woman wears a God-given “covering” of long hair, she also wears a God-inspired cloth covering during times of worship. For both coverings, men do the opposite.

* Prior to the New Testament, “opposite of” was the original definition of ἄντι. In Scripture, this usage is found only in compound words such as *antichrist*.