

A Woman's Place In The Assembly

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1 Cor. 14:34-35 *"Let your women keep silence in the churches; for it is not permitted unto them to speak, but to be under obedience, as also says the law. And if they will learn anything let them ask their husbands at home; for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."*

To understand what Paul is saying, we need to understand the time frame. Women did not receive any education in those days and the assemblies were divided into a section for men and one for women. A woman did not sit with her husband, and it was common for her to ask him what was meant even if he was sitting on the opposite side of the assembly. This was disruptive to others and brought disorder into the order the Spirit desired.

To me, this applies to anyone in a service that the Spirit is leading. Private conversations, fidgeting, sleeping, daydreaming, moving around, reading, not listening to what the Spirit is saying is no different than spitting in Jesus' face. It is a shame and an abomination.

The word for silence is "sigao", to be silent, and it has the meaning of holding your peace. There are two places where the noun "silence" is used. The first is in Acts 21:40 when a great silence fell over the crowd as Paul began his defense, and the second is in Revelations 8:1 when there is a thirty minute silence in heaven before the seventh seal is opened. Both preceded judgment.

1 Timothy 2:11-12 *"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."*

The word translated here as silence is "hesuhios," and it means quiet and peaceable, having a tranquility arising from within, causing no disturbance. It is the same word used in 1 Peter 3:4 *"But let it be the inward adorning and beauty of the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible and unfading charm of a gentle and peaceful spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God."* This is not so much describing an act as it is a state of being, as characterized by a meek and humble spirit.

There is a spiritual order that is established by God, and it is Father-Jesus-man-woman. This is not saying that a woman cannot teach or have authority. It is saying she can do so only under the authority of a man. To do otherwise is to be Jezebel, disregarding the order of God. To be in submission means to be in submission to the Holy Spirit, and if a woman does this she will comply with God totally.

Men have used these scriptures as a manipulative tool to hold over women's heads. It is bondage and God's Word sets us free. Such doctrine is bondage to the man as well as the woman; for it will keep him from advancing in the truth.

When scripture is translated to reach the conclusion desired by the translator, it is witchcraft. Perversion of the Word leads to further perversion to keep other scripture from contradicting man's doctrine. Such doctrine is also disruptive and brings disorder into what the Spirit desires. A man preaching a lie is no less shameful than a woman shouting across the assembly to her husband and, in fact, he is more so. She is interfering with the truth being heard. He is not bringing forth any truth to be heard. The establishment of truth is of paramount importance and that is done by listening to and obeying the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 3:26-29 *You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*