

## The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians

### Silence in the Congregation

1 Corinthians 14:33-40

1. **The Prohibition is \_\_\_\_\_**

The problems that Paul has been addressing may be unique to Corinth at the time of his writing, but the instructions which he gives are those which are consistent in all of the churches (cf. 1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17; 11:16; 14:33, 34; 16:1). Paul states the prohibition on women speaking in the congregation twice so that there would be no confusion over what he has said (v.34). This is not a prohibition that should need to be forced upon believing women by other members of the church, but rather it should be one that women willingly and joyfully submit themselves to (cf. 1 Cor. 16:16).

2. **The Prohibition is \_\_\_\_\_**

This is not a matter of Paul's preference or of the age in which he lived, this prohibition is of the Lord (1 Cor. 14:37). Paul has appealed to the authority of the Old Testament Scriptures in making his point about the gift of languages (1 Cor. 14:21), and he has previously grounded his admonitions about order and authority in the creation account (cf. 1 Cor. 11:8-9). Paul appeals to the Law because both the creation and the fall of mankind justify his current admonition (Gen. 2:18ff; 3:1-7; 1 TIm. 2:12-14).

3. **The Prohibition is \_\_\_\_\_**

Women are given spiritual gifts by the Lord as He desires (1 Cor. 12:7, 11) and they are to maintain self-control over when and how they use them (cf. 1 Cor. 14:28, 30, 32). There was an appropriate time for women to pray or prophesy in the activities of the Corinthian church, and there is an appropriate time for women to pray in the life of the church today (1 Cor. 11:13). Older women are also to be intentional about teaching younger women, and specifically those things which specific and practical applications of God's Word (cf. Titus 2:3-5). A woman, however, is disallowed from teaching men or exercising authority over men (1Tim. 2:12-14; cf. Gen. 3:16; 4:7) and is further not biblically qualified to be an elder in the local church (cf. 1 Tim 3:2).