

## **Introduction:**

- I. Paul is not only addressing the assembly of believers in Corinth, but the body of Christ world wide.
  - A. **1Cor. 1:2**, *"To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours."*
- II. Paul is dealing with Spiritual Gifts and therefore what the Holy Spirit would do and say - as opposed to what He would NOT do and would NOT say.
  - A. Ex: Anyone who calls Jesus Accursed is not speaking by the Spirit of God - **1Cor.12:3**
- III. Paul is concerned about:
  - A. Edification in the church.
  - B. Order in the church.
  - C. Procedures in the church.
- IV. Paul is speaking the commandments of Jesus TO the church.

## **Main Passage:**

**1Cor. 14:34-40**, *"(34) Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. (35) And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church. (36) Or did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached? (37) If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. (38) But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant. (39) Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. (40) Let all things be done decently and in order."*

- I. Does the Word of God ever allow women to speak in church?
  - A. 1st example is found in **1 Tim. 2:8-14**,
    - 1. *"(8) I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; (9) in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, (10) but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. (11) Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. (12) And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. (13) For Adam was formed first, then Eve. (14) And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression."*
    - 2. The words, "...in like manner also..." refer back to men praying everywhere.
    - 3. HOW a woman does this either speaks submission or rebellion.
  - B. The second example is found in **1 Cor. 11:4,5**,
    - 1. *"(4) Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. (5) But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head*

*uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved."*

- C. So Paul definitely allows women to pray and prophecy, but to do so UNDER AUTHORITY.

### **Silent:**

- I. These words appear 2 other times in **1 Cor. 14...**
- A. **1Cor. 14:28**, *"But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God."*
  - B. **1Cor. 14:30**, *"But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent."*
  - C. In all three places, the word for silent is means To be silent or still. To hold your peace.
    - 1. Externally - close mouth
    - 2. Internally - be at peace

### **Your Women?:**

- I. "WHO" is Paul addressing by "Your women" and does that matter?
- A. *"Be submissive as says the law".*
    - 1. The only 2 passages I know of which Paul could be addressing here are:
      - a) **Gen. 2:18**, *"And the LORD God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.'"*
      - b) **Gen. 3:16**, *"To the woman He said: 'I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.'"*
  - B. *"Ask their own husbands at home"* (which 'could' correspond to 'your women')
- II. Woman's purpose seems to be tied inexorably to her function.
- A. She was created FOR man.
  - B. **1Cor. 11:2-3**, *"(2) Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. (3) But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."*
- III. Because God is the head of every man - not just husbands, men must be the head of women - not just husbands with wives.
- IV. Woman was created FOR man
- A. **1Cor. 11:4-12**, *"(4) Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. (5) But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. (6) For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. (7) For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. (8) For man is not from woman, but woman from man. (9) Nor*

**was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.** (10) *For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. (11) Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. (12) For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God."*

- V. Paul uses this example of home authority to demonstrate the "rightness" of the same structure of authority in the church.
- VI. Even if Paul WAS talking to wives specifically in 1Cor. 14, his reasons were based upon truths which are binding upon all women.

### **Speak:**

- I. Speak = *Laleo* and here this word is modified by the context where the meaning lies not so much in the verb itself, *laléo*, as in the adjuncts.
  - A. It is HIGHLY likely that Paul is specifically referring to a specific type of speaking that he JUST addressed!

### **Judging Prophecy:**

- I. Paul seems to be disallowing women to judge the accuracy of prophecy in the church.
  - A. Judging prophecy is an authoritative role.
- II. Women are not to have authority over or teach men.
  - A. **1Tim. 2:8-14**, "(8) *I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; (9) in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, (10) but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. (11) Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. (12) And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. (13) For Adam was formed first, then Eve. (14) And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression."*
  - B. Women here are told to:
    - 1. Learn in silence
    - 2. Learn with all submission (*hupotasso*)
    - 3. Never teach a man
    - 4. Never exercise authority - acting like a governor over man. (This has FAR reaching implications)
      - a) Consider Queen Athalia - **2 Kings 11:1-20 & 2 Chronicles 22:1-15.**
      - b) **Isaiah 3:12**, "*Childish leaders oppress my people, and women rule over them. O my people, your leaders mislead you; they send you down the wrong road.*"
      - c) Miriam, Deborah & Huldah...ALL of which respected male authority & loathed supplanting men's rightful position. by God for assuming authority which was not theirs.
    - 5. To remain "*at and hold her peace*"

- III. Scripture gives two reasons for this restriction on women.
- A. 1st reason was - Creation order
1. Man (not the husband) was made 1st.
    - a) This points to man's headship role in humanity.
    - b) IF women were designed to help men, then men must be designed by God to be the ones leading - the ones with a mission that needs aid.
      - (1) Single women fulfilling this function:
        - (a) Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and others in **Luke 8:1-3 & Matt. 27:55.**
        - (b) Phoebe in **Rom. 16:1-2** *attended to the needs of strangers and practiced hospitality (Prov. 31 woman) to the poor saints in Cenchrea, and the strangers that came there.*
        - (c) *Another* Mary is mentioned in **Rom. 16:6** labored much meaning she wearied herself with labor for the aid of another.
        - (d) Lydia is said to have housed Paul and those with him, giving him a place to stay and likely food to eat while ministering in Macedonia.
        - (e) **1Tim. 5:5-15** says even more concerning single women (never married, divorced or widows).
      - (2) Married, women fulfil this by...
        - (a) **Titus 2:3-5, 1 Peter 3:1; Col. 3:18; Eph. 5:22; 1Cor. 11:1-16 & Prov. 31.**
- B. 2nd reason was Deception.
1. Eve was not just deceived as opposed to Adam, but the words say she was COMPLETELY 100% brought into deception.

### Final Thoughts:

- I. **1 Cor. 14:34-35**, Paul is saying...
  - A. *"In regard to judging prophecy, Let your women keep silent in the churches, for it is not permitted for them to speak in this way.(35) And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in this way in church."*
- II. Paul points out that the Gospel did not original with Corinth!
- III. If anyone of any gender thinks they are spiritual or a prophet they will FIRST agree that these are the words and commands of Jesus - head of the church.
- IV. Desire Spiritual Gifts!
- V. Do everything in Decency and in Order!