

The “Sound” of Silence

Join me in a final scenario for this series. You loan your car to your friend because an emergency has arisen. However, you come home and find that your riding lawnmower, tools and even your boat are gone. You discover that the same friend to whom you gave permission to use the car decided he also had authority to use those other things. His reasoning was seen in his statement, “Well, you didn’t tell me that I couldn’t use these things.”

Clearly, we understand that such is foolish and presumptuous. We would not be pleased! Why, then, do we think it is any different with God? There are those in the religious world that use the instrument in their song services. They reason that they have that right because, you guessed it, God did not tell them that they could not do so. Let’s take this a step further. What if we decided that the fruit of the vine and unleavened bread were rather tasteless and wanted a change? What if we decided that we wanted to replace these elements with Dr. Pepper and chocolate cake? By that reasoning we could do so. However, we must also see that we would be assuming too much. We would be in contradiction to God’s word because that is not the way that things are proven to be “good” (1 Thes. 5:21-22). What if I were to say that I can snort cocaine because God didn’t tell me I could not? Would that not be ridiculous reasoning?

May we be those who realize the truth that silence, rather than licensing an action, limits what we can do. We do NOT gain permission from God in that fashion. We gain permission by doing what He said and in the manner He said to do it.

Outline: “The Limiting Nature of Silence”

1. Introduction
2. Preparatory Remarks to be Understood (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Rom. 1:16-17; Heb. 7:14)
3. Application of the Principle of Biblical Silence

- A. An examination of passages (Col. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3; 1 Thes. 5:21-22)
- B. How do we apply this to worship? (Jno. 4:24; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Matt. 26:26-28)

P.M. Lesson – NT Survey: John (1)

N.T. Survey: John

1. A Deeper Look at Introductory Material

- A. Who wrote it?
- B. When and where was it written?
- C. Why was it written? (Jno. 20:30-31)

2. The Pre-existence of Christ (5:1-5)

- A. John's purpose had a single point of emphasis – to produce faith in Christ.
- B. Evidence for His pre-existence (Mic. 5:2; Isa. 9:6-7; Zech. 2:10-11; Jno. 8:56-58; 17:4-5, 24; Rev. 22:13; Jno. 1:1-4; 1 Cor. 10:1-4; Phil. 2:5-8; Jno. 1:3; Heb. 1:2-3)
- C. Significance of His pre-existence (Jno. 8:58; Ex. 3:13-14; Col. 1:16-17; Jno. 5:21; 11:25; Eph. 4:17-19; Jno. 8:12)

3. The Miracle at the Wedding Feast in Cana (2:1-11)

- A. Undisputed facts from the text
- B. Implications of these facts (Hab. 2:15; Matt. 24:48-51)

4. Worship in Spirit and in Truth (4:20-24)

- A. Jesus and the woman at the well
- B. Worshipping God in spirit
- C. Worshipping God in truth (Matt. 15:7-9; Acts 17:22-23; Col. 2:20-23)

5. The Truth Shall Make You Free (8:31-36)

- A. An often-quoted passage
- B. The freedom Jesus speaks of is freedom FROM sin (Rom. 3:23; 1 Jno. 1:8; James 2:10-11; Jno. 8:34; Rom. 7:14-24)
- C. The truth of which Jesus speaks involves His doctrine.

6. A Great Prayer (17:1-26) – It is great because of...

- A. who worded it.
- B. what was happening when it was worded.
- C. what He said.
- D. the victory it reveals.