

Respecting The Silence of The Scriptures

Learning to follow what God has said instead of following what He has not said

Introduction

- What does the Lord mean when He is silent on a subject?
- Does His silence give us permission to act as we choose?
- Or, does His silence forbid us to act as we think is best?
- These two underlying attitudes dictate how we apply Divine authority

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Introduction

- Denominational view – God’s silence is permissive
- We are free to do whatever we want as long as God has not specifically forbidden it
- Many churches of Christ have now adopted the same attitude
- We are free to act unless the Lord specifically forbids us from doing so

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Respecting The Silence of The Scriptures

What does it mean when God is silent?

Bible examples of God’s silence

Denominational examples of disrespecting God’s silence

Examples among brethren of disrespecting God’s silence

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What Does It Mean When God Is Silent?

- The only way we can know anything about the will of God is, He must communicate it to us
- If He has not communicated to us about a particular matter, we cannot know anything about that matter
- God’s silence does not authorize us to act in whatever way we please but restricts us to following what He has revealed to us

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What Does It Mean When God Is Silent?

1Co 2:10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

1Co 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

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What Does It Mean When God Is Silent?

1Pe 4:11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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What Does It Mean When God Is Silent?

Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

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What Does It Mean When God Is Silent?

- Again, if God speaks on a matter, we can be sure of His will
- But if He is silent, we are forbidden to speak for Him on any matter
- When God speaks, all else is excluded
- From Bible examples, we see God's silence is restrictive and ignoring it results in eternal danger

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Nadab And Abihu

Lev 16:12 "He shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground sweet incense, and bring it inside the veil.

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Nadab And Abihu

Lev 10:1 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.

Lev 10:2 And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.

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Moving Ark Of The Covenant

Num 4:15 "When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy objects and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is to set out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them, so that they will not touch the holy objects and die. These are the things in the tent of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.

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Moving Ark Of The Covenant

Exo 25:13 "You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.

Exo 25:14 "You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, to carry the ark with them.

Exo 25:15 "The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be removed from it.

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Moving Ark Of The Covenant

2Sa 6:3 They placed the ark of God on a new cart that they might bring it from the house of Abinadab which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were leading the new cart.

2Sa 6:6 But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset *it*.

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Moving Ark Of The Covenant

2Sa 6:7 And the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.

1Ch 15:13 "Because you did not carry it at the first, the LORD our God made an outburst on us, for we did not seek Him according to the ordinance."

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Following Law Of Moses Not Required For Christians

Act 15:1 Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."

Act 15:2 And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.

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Following Law Of Moses Not Required For Christians

Act 15:23 and they sent this letter by them, "The apostles and the brethren who are elders, to the brethren in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the Gentiles, greetings.

Act 15:24 "Since we have heard that some of our number to whom we gave no instruction have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls,

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Instrumental Music

- The Lord plainly reveals we should sing in our worship
- The Lord is silent in the New Testament concerning using mechanical instruments in our worship

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Instrumental Music

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

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Infant Baptism

- The Lord commands those who believe in Jesus and repent of their sins to be baptized for forgiveness of their sins
- The Lord is silent about commanding infants to be baptized, those who can neither believe nor repent

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Infant Baptism

Mar 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Mar 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

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Infant Baptism

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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Infant Baptism

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

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Local Church Providing Entertainment And Recreation

- The Lord is silent about local churches providing entertainment and recreation for members and the lost
- The Lord has plainly revealed local churches are not even to provide benevolence to needy saints unless families are unable to provide those needs

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Local Church Providing Entertainment And Recreation

1Ti 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Ti 5:16 If any woman who is a believer has *dependent* widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

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Post-Divorce Divorce or “Mental” Divorce

- The Lord has plainly revealed there is only one cause for divorce that allows a person to remarry, the one who divorces their mate for fornication
- Those who divorce and are divorced for other reasons than fornication and remarry commit adultery

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Post-Divorce Divorce or “Mental” Divorce

- The Lord is silent about those who are already sinfully divorced having a right to execute a “second” divorce in their hearts that allows them the right to remarry

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Post-Divorce Divorce or “Mental” Divorce

Mat 19:9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

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Post-Divorce Divorce or “Mental” Divorce

Mat 5:31 "It was said, 'WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE';

Mat 5:32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for *the* reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

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Post-Divorce Divorce or “Mental” Divorce

1Co 7:10 But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband

1Co 7:11 (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

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Post-Divorce Divorce or “Mental” Divorce

Luk 16:18 "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.

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