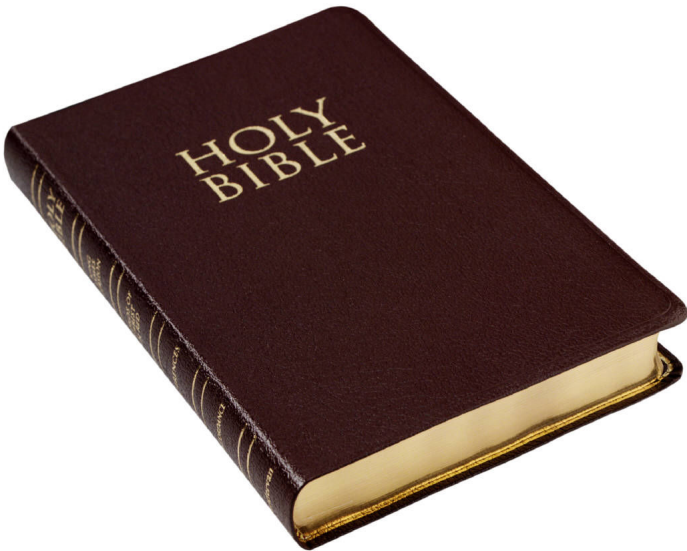


BIBLE SILENCE FORBIDS

(by George Battey)



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To understand whether Bible silence (a) permits or (b) forbids, we must first consider Bible authority.

Authority – “the right to command and enforce obedience or administer punishment”

Authority comes in two forms:

- **Primary** authority
- **Delegated** authority

PRIMARY AUTHORITY

God the Father constitutes **primary authority**.

1 Corinthians 11:3

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.

NOTE: No one is the head of God.

Daniel 4:35

35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing;
He does according to His will in the army of heaven
And among the inhabitants of the earth.
No one can restrain His hand
Or say to Him, “What have You done?”

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Since God possesses all authority, He can delegate authority to someone else. That's what He did.

1) Jesus has delegated authority:

Matthew 28:18

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

"has been given" = *"has been delegated."*

Who gave this authority to Him? The Father!

Matthew 11:27

27 All things have been **delivered to Me by My Father**, ...

Since Jesus has all authority, He can delegate authority to someone else. That's what He did.

2) The apostles have delegated authority:

Matthew 16:18-19

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

19 And **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

"keys" – symbolize authority.

“will be bound ... will be loosed” – perfect, passive, participles: *“shall already have been bound ... shall already have been loosed.”* (See English Standard Version footnote).

NOTE: Apostles were not making laws. *They were revealing* laws previously made in heaven.

AMBASSADORS

Jesus officially represented the Father (Jn 14:9).

The apostles officially represented Jesus:

2 Corinthians 5:20

20 Now then, **we** [apostles] **are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: **we** implore **you** on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.

Ambassador – an official representative of the king.

Not every Christian is an ambassador.

Notice the difference between the **“we”** and the **“you.”**

- The **“you”** are the Corinthians.
- The **“we”** are the apostles.

1 John 4:6

6 **We** [apostles] are of God. **He** who knows God hears **us**; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Two groups here: **“We”** and **“he.”**

“We” are the apostles.

AUTHORIZATION

The apostles (ambassadors of Christ) taught that for everything we teach and practice we must have authorization.

Colossians 3:17

17 And **whatever** you do **in word** or **deed**, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

“whatever” – *“everything or anything”* (American Heritage)

“in word” – things we say or teach

“in deed” – things we do or practice

“do all” – every single thing that is said or practiced

“in the name of the Lord Jesus” – i.e. by the authority of Jesus. (cf. Acts 4:7, 10, 12)

To have authority from Jesus means:

- Either Jesus Himself authorized it
- Or the apostles authorized it.

WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION

Furthermore, this authorization must be in written form.

“Get it in writing,” the lawyer always says. This is true in regard to spiritual matters also.

No one may say:

- “I feel the Lord is leading me to do a certain thing” – as though inner leadings, promptings, feelings and premonitions authorized anything.
- “Jesus told me to do a certain thing” – as though Jesus were still revealing things today.

No. The authorization from Jesus or His apostles must be in written form – in the NT scriptures.

John 16:13

13 [Jesus said to His apostles] when He, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, **He will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

- **If** the Spirit would reveal “all truth” to the apostles,
- **And if** the apostles wrote down all which the Spirit revealed
- **And if** that revelation was preserved,
- **Then** there would be no further need for revelation.

1) Peter confirmed all truth was revealed:

2 Peter 1:3

3 as His divine power has given to us **all things that pertain to life** and **godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

The writings of the apostles contain:

- **All things which pertain to LIFE** – i.e. one’s personal, private life as he relates to other humans.
- **All things which pertain to GODLINESS** – i.e. one’s religious duties toward God.

The writings of the apostles contain revelation concerning our private lives – not just the corporate functions of the church.

2) Paul confirmed all truth was revealed and WRITTEN down in scripture form:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

If the scriptures “*thoroughly equip*” the man of God “*for every good work*,” this means silence is significant.

THE ALL-SUFFICIENT WORD

Since the scriptures **thoroughly equip** Christians for **every good work**, the scriptures are all sufficient. There is nothing we need that is not contained in the scriptures.

When the scriptures are silent, that silence is significant. God was being silent on purpose.

Legislative silence – when the law is purposefully silent about an action and that silence is viewed as expressing the intent of the lawmaker.

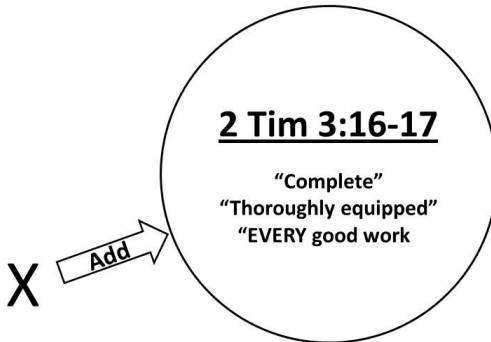
To illustrate, let a large circle represent God's complete will (NT scriptures). His revealed will contains **every** good work which He authorizes.

God's Complete Will



If someone proposed doing something ("X") which the scriptures are silent about, it means he would have to add to the scriptures.

God's Complete Will



But men are strictly forbidden from adding to the scriptures:

Galatians 1:8

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

Revelation 22:18

18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds to these things**, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

Bible silence is significant. Silence forbids.

EXPLICIT – IMPLICIT

Everything the Bible teaches is taught in one of two ways:

- Explicitly
- Implicitly

1) Explicit – “fully and clearly expressed; leaving nothing implied” ([American Heritage](#), electronic version)

1 Timothy 4:1

1 Now the Spirit **expressly says** that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

“expressly” – *“explicitly”*

Explicit authorization means one can go to a NT passage and read a command or example word for word.

2) **Implicit** – “implied or understood though not directly expressed” (American Heritage, electronic version)

Mark 12:26-27

26 But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’?

27 He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken.”

In the burning bush passage God taught two things indirectly:

- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are still alive – though their bodies are dead.
- There will be a resurrection from the dead.

God did not explicitly say these things. He *implied* them.

NOTE: To “*establish authority*” I must be able to point to a scripture (or combination of scriptures) where (a) Jesus or (b) apostles either explicitly or implicitly authorized what I’m doing or teaching.

WHAT IS SILENCE?

Q: What is silence?

A: Silence is the absence of all explicit and all implicit teachings.

NOTE: **Implication is not silence.**

When God implied Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were still alive and that they would resurrect, **He was not being silent about these matters.**

This explains why Jesus was incredulous with the Sadducees for not knowing about the resurrection in the “*burning bush passage*” (Mk 12).

EXAMPLE: *When God commanded Noah to build an ark* (Gen 6), He implied any tools necessary to carry out the command. He was not silent about:

- Some type of measuring device.
- Some sort of wood-cutting device.
- Some sort of wood-hauling device.
- Some sort of device which would nail or cement or bind the wood together (nails, rope, wood dowels).
- Some sort of brush or mop to apply the pitch (tar).

All of these tools were authorized, but they were not authorized explicitly. They were authorized implicitly.

We can say, then, that God was not silent about tools for building the ark.

When God implies something, He is not being silent.

SILENCE FORBIDS

Passages which demonstrate God's silence is significant and His silence forbids:

1) Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:1-5

1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

Heb 11:4 – Abel offered his sacrifice by faith.

Rom 10:17 – faith comes by hearing the word of God.

Therefore, God commanded a lamb and was silent about fruit. Silence forbids.

2) Nadab and Abihu

Leviticus 10:1-2

1 Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, **which He had not commanded them.**

2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

3) Uzza

1 Chronicles 13:7-10

7 So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart.

8 Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets.

9 And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled.

10 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God.

Uzza had good intentions, but he had no authority to touch the ark.

1 Chronicles 15

2 Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever."

13 For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because **we did not consult Him about the proper order.**"

14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

15 And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.

4) The apostles and elders

Acts 15:23-24

23 [The Jerusalem church] wrote this letter by them:
The apostles, the elders, and the brethren,

To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:

Greetings.

24 Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law" — to whom **we gave no such commandment.**

5) The Book of Hebrews

Hebrews 1:5

5 For to which of the angels did He ever say:
"You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You"?
And again:
"I will be to Him a Father,
And He shall be to Me a Son"?

Hebrews 1:13

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said:
"Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?

The argument of these passages is based on silence.

Hebrews 7:14

14 For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe **Moses spoke nothing** concerning priesthood.

All of these passages teach: **Silence forbids**.

When the NT is truly silent (nothing explicit, nothing implicit), we have no authorization to (a) teach or (b) practice the thing under consideration.

SIX POSSIBILITIES

Since everything the Bible teaches is taught either **explicitly** or **implicitly**, there are six possibilities:

1) Explicitly REQUIRED

Acts 2:38

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2) Explicitly PERMITTED

Romans 14:5

5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

3) Explicitly PROHIBITED

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

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.

4) Implicitly REQUIRED

Exodus 20:8

8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

This passage implicitly required keeping **every** Sabbath day holy. (Num 15:32-36).

In the same way, Acts 20:7 implies communion is to be observed **every** first day of the week.

5) Implicitly PERMITTED

Ephesians 4:28

28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather **let him labor, working with his hands what is good**, that he may have something to give him who has need.

This passage **implicitly permits** a man to be a mechanic, a carpenter, a computer programmer or any other occupation which is considered "good."

No one is required to be a mechanic, but they are permitted (authorized).

Q: Is there Bible authorization to program computers?

A: Yes – Eph 4:28.

6) Implicitly PROHIBITED

Galatians 5:19-21

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, **fornication**, uncleanness, lewdness,
20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,
21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God**.

This passage uses the word "*fornication*" (πορνεία). This **implicitly prohibits**:

- Unmarried sex
- Pedophilia
- Bestiality
- Homosexuality, etc.

So, while there is no passage which explicitly say, “*Thou shalt not be a pedophile,*” this passage implicitly prohibits such.

THE “EXPLICIT-ONLY” DOCTRINE

There is a false doctrine called the ***explicit-only doctrine*** which states that only those things which are explicitly stated are required.

The entire area of implicit teaching is rejected **because it requires human reasoning** and human reasoning at its very best is flawed – so the argument states.

F. L. Lemley:

Since all inferences are of human origin, unless we want to hold on to human patterns we should discard necessary inference as poor pattern material. (Warren, When Is Example Binding?, 91)

Any time a process of human reasoning or deduction has to intervene between the word and a conclusion, the conclusion is human and not divine, and therefore cannot be (even when true) a part of the New Testament pattern. (ibid., 90)

Only those examples that are objects of direct command are binding on us. (ibid., 91)

Q: How did F. L. Lemley reach the conclusion that implicit teachings are not binding?

A: He used reasoning and drew inferences!

In other words, he had to use human reasoning himself to reach the conclusion that others are **forbidden** to bind laws which require human reasoning!

If the explicit-only doctrine is true, then most of the Bible becomes irrelevant because none of its commands were explicitly directed to anyone living today.

NOTE: Jesus' rebuke of the Sadducees in Mk 12 clearly demonstrates the explicit-only doctrine is false. The implicit teachings of the scripture are just as binding as the explicit teachings.

APPLICATION

Understanding the doctrine of "silence forbids," we are now ready to answer several questions:

1) Why does the church of Christ not baptize babies?

Because the NT is silent and silence forbids.

We are not to add to the word and in order to baptize babies, we would have to add something that's not there.

If someone asked for authorization to baptize adults who believe in Christ, that could be done (Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38). But where would one go for authorization to baptize babies?

2) Why does the church of Christ immerse? Why don't we accept sprinkling?

Because the NT is silent and silence forbids.

We are not to add to the word and in order to sprinkle, we would have to add something that's not there.

If someone asked for authorization to immerse, that could be done (Acts 8:38; Rom 6:3-4). But where would one go for authorization to sprinkle?

3) Why does the church of Christ not use instruments?

Because the NT is silent and silence forbids.

We are not to add to the word and in order to use instruments, we would have to add something that's not there.

If someone asked for authorization to sing that could be done (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16). But where would one go for authorization to use instruments?

NOTE: Here is where people want to go to the OT – to David and the Psalms. But Christians are not living under the OT.

Acts 2:42

42 And they continued steadfastly in **the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Christians did not follow Moses any longer. They followed the apostles' doctrine.

The OT was nailed to the cross (Col 2:14). Christians are to look to Jesus and His apostles for authorization today (Mt 17:5).

4) What is wrong with:

- Teaching suicide bombers dying in Jihad, 70 virgins await?
- Teaching Mohammad was God's prophet?
- Baptism for the dead?
- A Pope as head of the church?
- Keeping the seventh-day Sabbath?
- Teaching sinners to "accept Jesus as your personal Savior" without baptism?
- Missionary Society?
- Female elders and deacons?
- Instrumental music?

- Individual communion cups?
- Fermented wine in communion?
- Water in communion?
- Plurality of loaves / wafers in communion?
- Second-offering of communion on Sunday?
- Transporting communion to the sick?
- Bible classes?
- Choirs and special singing groups?
- Calling the preacher "Pastor" or "Reverend"?
- Handclapping during services?
- Religious dancing?
- Religious drama performances?
- Church sponsored G.E.D. classes?
- Church sponsored Children's Day-Care?
- Church sponsored recreation?
- Gambling?
- The lottery?

The problem with all these things is: The NT is silent about all of these things. Silence forbids.

We are not to add to the word and in order to do any of these things, we would have to add something that's not there.

If one asked for authorization to do what we do, authorization could be given.

- Worship on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
- Salvation by faith plus baptism (Mk 16:16; Ja 2:24).
- Women remain silent in all church assemblies (1 Cor 14:34-35).
- A cappella singing (Eph 5:19).
- One communion cup (1 Cor 11:25).
- Unfermented fruit of the vine (Mt 26:29).
- One unbroken communion loaf (1 Cor 10:16-17).
- One offering of the Lord's supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
- One undivided assembly (1 Cor 14:23-40).
- Congregational singing (1 Cor 14:15; Eph 5:19).

But where would one go for authorization to do all these other things?

CONCLUSION

We must show respect for the scriptures.

- We are told to have scripture authorization for everything we do (Col 3:17).
- We cannot think beyond what is written (1 Cor 4:6).
- If anyone comes to us and does not bring the teaching of Christ, we are not to receive them into our house nor bid them God speed (2 Jn 9-11).
- If anyone teaches something not taught by the apostles they are accursed from God (Gal 1:8-9).
- If anyone tries to worship in a way which is not authorized, their worship is worthless (Mt 15:9).

This is serious business. Our eternal destinies are at stake here.

We must be careful and make sure what we do is authorized. We must be careful in how we handle the scriptures – drawing out of the scriptures what they actually say and being careful not to read wishful thinking into the scriptures (2 Tim 2:15).

In closing:

Deuteronomy 29:29

29 "The **secret things belong to the LORD our God**, but **those things which are revealed belong to us** and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Truly:

Where the Bible speaks, we speak. (1 Pet 4:11)
Where the Bible is silent, we are silent. (Gal 1:8-9)

PASSAGES TEACHING BIBLE SILENCE FORBIDS

Genesis 4:1-5

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that **Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD**. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, **but He did not respect Cain and his offering**. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

Leviticus 10:1-2

Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, **which He had not commanded** them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

Numbers 14:44-45

But they **presumed** to go up to the mountaintop. Nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses departed from the camp. Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked them, and drove them back as far as Hormah.

Numbers 15:30

'But the person who does anything **presumptuously**, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people.

NOTE: All of the "presumptuous" warnings say the same thing: Silence Forbids. When God is silent and a man goes onward to teach or practice the thing which God never authorized, he is "presuming" it will be acceptable.

Deuteronomy 1:43

So I spoke to you; yet you would not listen, but rebelled against the command of the

LORD, and **presumptuously** went up into the mountain.

Deuteronomy 4:2

You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

NOTE: All of the "do not add" warnings say the same thing: Silence Forbids. When God is silent, that silence is significant. Significant silence is called "legislative silence."

Deuteronomy 17:3

who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, **which I have not commanded**,

Deuteronomy 17:12-13

Now the man who acts **presumptuously** and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear and fear, and no longer act **presumptuously**.

Deuteronomy 18:20

But the prophet who **presumes** to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

Deuteronomy 18:22

when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it **presumptuously**; you shall not be afraid of him.

Deuteronomy 29:19

and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I **follow the dictates of my heart**' — as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.

Deuteronomy 29:29

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

2 Samuel 7:1-7

Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains." Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, **have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"**"

1 Kings 12:33

So [Jeroboam] made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in **the month which he had devised**

in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.

1 Chronicles 13:1-10

Then David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it is of the LORD our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere who are left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites who are in their cities and their common-lands, that they may gather together to us; and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul." Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor in Egypt to as far as the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim. And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who dwells between the cherubim, where His name is

proclaimed. **So they carried the ark of God on a new cart** from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets. And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, **Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God.**

1 Chronicles 15:1-15

David built houses for himself in the City of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. Then David said, "**No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites**, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever." And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it. Then David assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites: of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the

chief, and one hundred and twenty of his brethren; of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, and two hundred and twenty of his brethren; of the sons of Gershon, Joel the chief, and one hundred and thirty of his brethren; of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, and two hundred of his brethren; of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, and eighty of his brethren; of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, and one hundred and twelve of his brethren. And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it. For **because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order.**" So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on

their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.

2 Chronicles 26:16-18

But when [Uzziah] was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD — valiant men. And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, "**It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the LORD God.**"

Psalms 19:13

Keep back Your servant also from **presumptuous** sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

Psalms 106:39

Thus they were defiled by **their own works**, And played the harlot by **their own deeds**.

Proverbs 30:6

Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

Isaiah 30:1

"Woe to the rebellious children," says the LORD, "Who take counsel, but not of Me, And **who devise plans**, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin;

Isaiah 65:2

I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in a way that is not good, According to their own thoughts;

Jeremiah 3:17

"At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow **the dictates of their evil hearts**.

Jeremiah 7:21-26

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat meat. For **I did not speak to your fathers, or command them** in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, **concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices**.

But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.' Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but **followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts**, and went backward and not forward. Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. Yet they did not obey Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.

Jeremiah 7:31

And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which **I did not command, nor did it come into My heart**.

Jeremiah 9:14

but they have walked according to **the dictates of their own hearts** and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them,"

Jeremiah 11:8

Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone followed **the dictates of his evil heart**; therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but which they have not done."

Jeremiah 13:10

This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who follow **the dictates of their hearts**, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing.

Jeremiah 14:14

And the LORD said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. **I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them**; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.

Jeremiah 16:12

And you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, each one follows **the dictates of his own evil heart**, so that no one listens to Me.

Jeremiah 18:12

And they said, "That is hopeless! So we will walk

according to our own plans, and we will every one obey the dictates of his evil heart."

Jeremiah 19:5

(they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which **I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind**),

Jeremiah 23:17

They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "You shall have peace";' And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'"

Jeremiah 23:32

Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says the LORD, "and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet **I did not send them or command them**; therefore they shall not profit this people at all," says the LORD.

Jeremiah 29:23

because they have done disgraceful things in Israel, have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and have spoken lying words in My name, which **I have not**

commanded them. Indeed I know, and am a witness, says the LORD.

Jeremiah 32:35

And they built the high places of Baal which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which **I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind** that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.'

Matthew 15:9

And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"

John 12:49

For **I have not spoken on My own authority**; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

John 16:13

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for **He will not speak on His own authority**, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

NOTE: To "speak on one's own authority" is to speak when God was silent about something. Silence on the part of God forbids anyone (including Jesus and the Holy Spirit) from speaking or acting.

Acts 15:24

Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law" — **to whom we gave no such commandment.**

1 Corinthians 4:6

Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, **that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written**, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

Galatians 1:8-9

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach **any other gospel** to you than what we have preached to you, let him be **accursed**. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches **any other gospel** to you than what you have received, let him be **accursed**.

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Hebrews 1:5

For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"?

Hebrews 1:13

But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?

Hebrews 7:14

For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

NOTE: The above three passages from Hebrews present arguments based on the silence of God. All three passages teach the same thing: Silence forbids.

2 Peter 2:10

and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise

authority. They are **presumptuous**, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

2 John 9-11

Whoever transgresses ["runs ahead" – NIV] **and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.** He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

Revelation 22:18-19

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;** and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

All Bible references in this booklet are taken from the New King James Version, Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1988.

If you have never been scripturally saved you must take the following steps:

- Believe that Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 16:16).
- Repent of your sins (stop practicing sin – Lk 13:3).
- Confess your faith verbally (Rom 10:10).
- Be baptized in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mk 16:16).

If you have already been scripturally baptized "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38), but have fallen away, you may still be forgiven by taking the following steps:

- Repent of your sins (stop practicing sin – Acts 8:22).
- Confess your sins (1 Jn 1:8-9).
- Pray and ask God to forgive you (Acts 8:22).

OPEN BIBLE STUDY

November 13, 2010

Jason Murray (Christian Church) presented the position:

Bible Silence Permits

In other words, when the Bible is silent about instrumental music, individual communion cups, Bible classes, etc., God's people are permitted to participate in such actions.

George Battey (Church of Christ) presented the position:

Bible Silence Forbids

In other words, when the Bible is silent about instrumental music, individual communion cups, Bible classes, etc., God's people are forbidden to participate in such actions.

The above study was conducted at:

Church of Christ

3511 Hwy 99

(Corner of Good Hope Rd. & Hwy 99)

Seminole, OK

405-567-0575

405-821-6473

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