

## This Instruction Was Given To All Churches

- A. Disagreement over punctuation around the phrase, “as in all the churches of the saints.” (Paul wrote in the G\_\_\_\_\_ language which at the time had no punctuation marks)
1. The popular translations punctuate the sentence this way, “For God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.” (KJV, NIV, NAS, NLT)
  2. Some translations begin a new sentence: *As in all the churches of the saints, let the women keep silent in the churches.* (RSV, TEV, NEB).
- B. The immediate context:
1. If God is compelling people to prophecy and speak in tongues, it would be done one by one and in o\_\_\_\_\_ because God is not a God of confusion but of peace.
  2. To add “as in all the churches of the saints” does not add any s\_\_\_\_\_ to the truth that God is a God of order. What churches practice does not determine what God is like.
  3. Paul is still on the topic of order when dealing with the subject of women s\_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. But the speech is not in the sense of prophesying or speaking in tongues because that speech is not an act of human w\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Pet 1:21).
    - b. It is in the sense of speaking in o\_\_\_\_\_ ways (e.g. teaching, asking questions).
    - c. The subject applies not just to the Corinthian church but to a\_\_\_\_\_ the churches of the saints.
  4. Therefore, it seems best to punctuate this: “As in all the churches of the saints, let the women keep silent in the churches.”
- C. Is this purely cultural and not applicable to us today? What determines if something is purely cultural?
1. Some Christians use the “purely” cultural argument to say homosexuality is an acceptable godly lifestyle (but God calls this lifestyle an a\_\_\_\_\_ (Lev 18:22).
  2. Some Christians say that Paul was just the f\_\_\_\_\_ theologian and that we have better developed theology today.
    - a. But read verse 36 – what gives anyone the authority to override Paul’s words?
    - b. But read verse 37 – Paul was not giving his opinion but the Lord’s c\_\_\_\_\_.
    - c. But read verse 38 – if a person does not accept Paul’s words, that person’s words must not be accepted.

## The Command Must Be Understood In Its Context

- A. What does Paul mean by keeping silent and not speaking?
1. Paul does not mean silence in the sense that no w\_\_\_\_\_ must come out of a woman's mouth from the time she steps into the assembly until the time she leaves.
    - a. Larger context (1 Cor 11:5) - Paul permitted women to p\_\_\_\_\_ in a church service.
    - b. Immediate context (v. 34b) – defines the meaning as being in s\_\_\_\_\_ as the law instructs them to.
  2. Therefore, Paul is instructing women to put themselves under another's a \_\_\_\_\_ and not usurping that authority.
- B. What does Paul mean by “the Law?”
1. The word “law” has many meanings:
    - a. The Mosaic Law which covers the \_\_\_ commandments, dietary laws, priestly laws, ceremonial laws, etc. (e.g. Rom 7:7).
    - b. Man-made r\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. Mk 2:24)
    - c. Governmental law (e.g. Matt 5:25)
    - d. The f\_\_\_\_\_ five books of the Bible (e.g. Matt 11:13).
  2. Paul is referring to Gen 3:16 where God tells Eve that Adam will r\_\_\_\_\_ over her.
    - a. After conversing with the serpent, Eve took the l\_\_\_\_\_ role and led her husband into sin.
    - b. God gave order by putting the man in authority over the woman.
- C. Is Paul restricting this silence to married women in relationship to their husbands?
1. The Greek word for woman and wife are the same and are usually (but not always) distinguished by the presence of the article “t\_\_\_\_\_” or its absence.
  2. If Paul meant to apply this to wives only, then in verse 35 he would have written “for it is improper for the wife to speak in church.”
    - a. The problem seems to have been with married women since they were to a\_\_\_\_\_ their husbands questions at home and not in the church service.
      - 1) Possibly wives were asking their husbands questions while someone was t\_\_\_\_\_.
      - 2) Possibly wives were interrupting the speakers by asking questions and so taking over the service.
    - b. The principle Paul is using applies to all women – for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.

## **The Command Must Be Confined to Certain Spiritual Gifts**

- A. The word “speak” occurs in both verse 34 and verse 35 and is in a tense that refers an on \_\_\_\_\_ action of speaking.
1. It excludes the kinds of speaking gifts that God controls, like tongues or prophecy
    - a. Deborah was a J\_\_\_\_\_ of Israel and a prophetess who spoke God’s word to the people (Jdg 4:4; 2 Pet 1:21).
    - b. P\_\_\_\_\_ had four daughters, who were all prophetesses (Acts 21:8,9).
  2. It includes the kinds of speaking gifts where the speaker c\_\_\_\_\_ to put herself in a position of authority over men, which are the gifts of teaching and leading.
- B. Compare 1 Tim 2:11-14
1. 1 Tim 2:11 – receive instruction quietly and in submissiveness.  
1 Cor 14:34 – keep silent and submit.
  2. 1 Tim 2:13 – reference to the fall: Eve was deceived not Adam.  
1 Cor 14:34 – reference to the fall: as the Law also says (Gen 3:16).
  3. 1 Tim 2:12 – women not allowed to teach or have authority over a man (referring to an ongoing role).  
1 Cor 14:34 – women not permitted to speak (implied – with authority over a man)
- C. This DOES NOT forbid women to:
1. Participate in church discussions with men.
  2. Stand up in front of a church and share her testimony, share the gospel, share from scripture, (as long as they are not putting themselves in a position of authority over men).
  3. To lead or teach other women, youth, or children.