

# “I Do Not Permit A Woman To Teach Or Exercise Authority Over A Man”

## WIVES, SUBMIT TO YOUR OWN HUSBANDS

**Ephesians 5:22-25 ( ESV )** <sup>22</sup>Wives, **submit to your own husbands**, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also **wives should submit in everything to their husbands**. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, **love your wives**, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

Paul roots this instruction in the creation itself:

**1 Corinthians 11:3 ( ESV )** <sup>3</sup>But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, **the head of a wife is her husband**, and the head of Christ is God.

**1 Corinthians 11:7-10 ( ESV )** <sup>7</sup>For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is **the glory of man**. <sup>8</sup>For man was not made from woman, but **woman from man**. <sup>9</sup>Neither was man created for woman, but **woman for man**. <sup>10</sup>That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

## THE WOMEN SHOULD KEEP SILENT IN THE CHURCHES

**1 Corinthians 14:33b-35 ( ESV )** As in all the churches of the saints, <sup>34</sup>the women should **keep silent (sigao) in the churches**. For they are not permitted to **speak**, but should be **in submission**, as the Law also says. <sup>35</sup>If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. **For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church**.

*Must understand this command in the immediate context, particularly verses 26-35.*

**1 Corinthians 14:26-35 ( ESV )** <sup>26</sup>What then, brothers? **When you come together**, each one has a **hymn**, a **lesson**, a **revelation**, a **tongue**, or an **interpretation**. Let all things be done for building up. <sup>27</sup>If any **speak** in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. <sup>28</sup>But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them **keep silent (sigao) in church** and **speak** to himself and to God. <sup>29</sup>Let two or three prophets **speak**, and let the others weigh what is said. <sup>30</sup>If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be **silent (sigao)**. <sup>31</sup>For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, <sup>32</sup>and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. <sup>33</sup>For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, <sup>34</sup>the women should **keep silent (sigao) in the churches**. For they are not permitted to **speak**, but should be **in submission**, as the Law also says. <sup>35</sup>If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. **For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church**.

## QUESTIONS:

1. How does Paul use “speak” and “keep silent” in vs. 26-33?

Those who “speak” are addressing the congregation, either to praise God, teach His Word, and/or instruct, admonish and reprove the brethren. They are to do this one at a time and the other men are to “keep silent.”

Paul says that the women are never permitted to address the congregation in these ways. They are to always “keep silent.”

## 2. Which women is Paul addressing in vs. 34-35?

### Two Possibilities:

**Paul is addressing only the WIVES.** In the assembly the **WIVES** are forbidden to take the floor publicly, either by prophesying, judging prophecies, or asking questions, even submissively from their seat, because by doing so they would be **out of subjection to their HUSBAND**. This is why “*it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.*” **OR...**

**Paul is addressing ALL WOMEN (*he assumes that women generally have husbands*).** In the assembly **ALL WOMEN** are forbidden to take the floor publicly, either by prophesying, judging prophecies, or asking questions, even submissively from their seat, because by doing so they would be **out of subjection to MALE LEADERSHIP in the church**. This is why “*it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.*”

### CONCLUSION:

The “ALL WOMEN” option fits better and is much more consistent with Paul’s instructions to ALL WOMEN in 1 Timothy 2:11-12.

## LET A WOMAN LEARN QUIETLY WITH ALL SUBMISSIVENESS

### In Regard to Spiritual Instruction

**1 Timothy 2:8-15 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup>Let a woman learn quietly (*hesuchia*) with all submissiveness. <sup>12</sup>I do not permit a woman to **teach or to exercise authority over a man**; rather, she is to **remain quiet (*hesuchia*)**.

### Must understand this command in the immediate context of verses 8-15

**1 Timothy 2:8-15 (ESV)** <sup>8</sup>I desire then that **in every place the men should pray**, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; <sup>9</sup>likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, <sup>10</sup>but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. <sup>11</sup>**Let a woman learn quietly (*hesuchia*) with all submissiveness.** <sup>12</sup>I do not permit a woman to **teach or to exercise authority over a man**; rather, she is to **remain quiet (*hesuchia*)**. <sup>13</sup>For **Adam was formed first**, then Eve; <sup>14</sup>and Adam was **not deceived**, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. <sup>15</sup>Yet she will be saved through **childbearing**—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

### QUESTIONS:

1. Does this passage apply only to full assemblies of the church, or does it also apply to Bible studies, singings, and all settings in which spiritual instruction takes place? (*see the immediate context of 2:8 – “in every place the men should pray”*)

2. In what sense is a woman not permitted to teach or exercise authority over a man?  
*(Does not apply to a secular setting. There is spiritual teaching which a woman must do, Titus 2:2-5; Eph 5:19; Acts 18:26, and there is spiritual teaching which she must not do, "over a man.")*
3. What does the word "quietly" (*hesuchia*) mean? *(see 1 Tim 2:2; 2 Ths 3:11-12; 1 Pet 3:4 – an orderly, peaceable disposition, demeanor, or way of life)*

**1 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)** <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and **quiet (*hesuchios*)** life, godly and dignified in every way.

**2 Thess. 3:12** Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in **quietness (*hesuchia*)** and eat their own bread.

**1 Pet. 3:4** rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and **quiet (*hesuchios*) spirit**, which is very precious in the sight of God.

**CONCLUSION:** In any setting where spiritual teaching takes place, private or public, a woman must not take a position, express an attitude, or engage in an action of teaching over a man, but must *"learn quietly with all submissiveness."*

**APPLICATIONS:**

1. A woman cannot be an elder or a preacher.
2. Where male brethren are present, a woman cannot be a Bible teacher or lead prayers or spiritual songs.
3. Where male brethren are present, a woman may ask a question or make a comment "in quietness" (*disposition, demeanor that does not teach over a man*).
4. Where male brethren are present, a woman should not publicly rebuke, reprove, or admonish brethren.