

First Corinthians 14:33-40
Godward Edification in the Congregation part 5

The reason for self-control is God's character—14:33

- 1) ³³ *For God is not a God (negatively) of disorder/disturbance/instability but (positively) of peace.* (cf. with the concept of edification)

Women talking during the teaching—14:33b-36

- 1) The tradition—*As in all the congregations of the saints,*
- 2) Command # 1—14:34 ³⁴ *the women are to keep silent in the congregations,* (cf. 14:28, 30)
 - a) The reasons
 - i) Negatively—*for they are not permitted to speak,*
(1) Remember 11:2-16 where women were praying and prophesying
 - ii) Positively—*but are to submit themselves,* (cf. 14:32)
(1) *just as the Law also says.*
 - b) What it does NOT mean
 - i) Not absolute silence at all services, though this was the standard in the synagogue.
 - c) What it does mean (at least 2 possibilities)
 - i) Some say women should not teach—in light of 1st Timothy 2:9-15
 - ii) Some say women should not evaluate the prophets—in light of 14:29
- 3) Command # 2—14:35 *let them ask their own husbands at home,*
 - a) Potential situation—³⁵ *And if (1st class condition, assume true for sake of argument) they desire to learn anything,*
 - b) Public embarrassment—*because it is disgraceful for women to speak in the congregation.*
- 4) Two questions concerning their self-focus—14:36 (they were not some unique standard)
 - a) Source? ³⁶ *Or was it from you^{pl} that the word of God went forth?*
 - b) Destination? *Or has it arrived at you^{pl} only?*

The evidence of a teachable attitude—14:37-38

- 1) Potential situation # 1—14:37 ³⁷ *If (1st class condition, assume true for sake of argument) anyone supposes himself to be a prophet or spiritual,*
 - a) Inspiration of Paul's writings—*let him acknowledge the things I write to you^{pl}, that they are the commandments of the **Lord*** (emphatic).
- 2) Potential situation # 2—14:38 ³⁸ *But if (1st class condition, assume true for sake of argument) anyone ignores this,*
 - a) *let him be ignored.*

Conclusion—14:39-40

- 1) ³⁹ *Therefore, brothers,*
 - a) Positively—*eagerly seek to prophesy,* (cf. 14:1)
 - b) Negatively—*and do not forbid to speak in languages.* (cf. 13:8-13)
- 2) ⁴⁰ *All things must be done appropriately and according to orderliness.*
 - a) Because this is consistent with God's character (cf. 14:33)