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WOMAN - SHUT UP!

LADY - SPEAK UP!

I believe that the scriptures teach us that it is time for all Spirit led women to SPEAK UP. I do not believe in silencing SOMEONE just because that person is a woman.

BALANCE

It is time to bring balance to the conflict brought about by the question, "Should a woman speak in church - or not?"

Yes, Paul did tell the women at Corinth to SHUT UP but there are many other cases in scripture where women are encouraged to SPEAK UP.

My experience and travels show me that it is a great tragedy that many Christians have misunderstood Paul's command. I find that women are often anointed by the Holy Spirit to bring forth our GOD's truth, but many cannot bring themselves to SPEAK UP because of church condemnation, or self condemnation. This should not be. I believe that it is time for all Spirit led women to SPEAK UP. Here's why.

PAUL SAID SHUT UP

The apostle Paul told the Corinthian women to SHUT UP. "Let your women keep SILENCE in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law" (I Cor. 14:34).

This law about the Corinthian women should be studied in it's full context. A few verses before, Paul had told certain MEN to keep SILENCE in the church. "If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three; and that by course, and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let HIM keep SILENCE in the church" (I Cor. 14:27-28).

The subject of the whole passage is CONFUSION vs. PEACE (I Cor. 14:33). This was not written to put a muzzle on women. It was written to bring order on EVERYONE, men

and women alike. The context says for both MEN and WOMEN to SHUT UP.

I think that it is very unfortunate that some present day preachers lift that one sentence way out of context and apply it to all women everywhere. That should not be done.

OUTSIDE THE BIBLE

And the law that Paul referred to here is NOT Bible law. It is the law of the Scribes and Pharisees called the TALMUD. The Talmud is like a Sunday School commentary. I'll admit that the commentary TALMUD did have prohibitions against women speaking- but I can't find any such ideas in the true Bible, the TORAH. It makes me wonder why present day Christians choose to ignore the predominance of scripture in the New Testament, ignore the scripture in the Old Testament (TORAH) and then choose to apply the old Jewish commentary (TALMUD) laws to modern church conduct concerning women.

OBEEDIENCE?

Yes. Paul placed women under obedience to men at Corinth. And the section, "but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law" has caused much confusion and misunderstanding. Remember that the "LAW" referred to here is not the LAW of Moses. It is the LAW of the Scribes and Pharisees. It is not Bible LAW.

When Paul told the women at Corinth to SHUT UP he must not have had other cities in his mind because Paul SHUT UP while the daughters of Philip SPOKE UP at Caesarea. And Paul never tried to change a thing at Caesarea, but rather Paul obeyed the different rules that Philip had set up there.

PAUL SHUT UP - DAUGHTERS SPOKE UP

When Paul visited the home of Philip the evangelist, then Paul SHUT UP and the four daughters of Philip SPOKE UP. (See Acts 21: 8-14). We should ask ourselves, "Why didn't

the girls at Caesarea (Maritime) SHUT UP? Didn't they know that Paul had told the women at Corinth to SHUT UP? What right did they have to SPEAK UP and prophesy?" The answer is in the fact that Paul was the apostle to Corinth but Philip (not Paul) was the apostle to Caesarea. In other words Paul didn't have any authority in the house he was visiting. I think that it is sad that present day Christians have decided to apply Paul's rule for Corinth - to their own congregations; and at the same time they turn their backs on the example Philip gave us. Why should Paul be chosen over Philip? Both were men of God but they taught us exact opposites in regard to women SPEAKING UP or SHUTTING UP women.

I would never criticize Paul for bringing order to Corinth. But, it is hard to not criticize present day churches that forbid their females to have a voice nowadays.

LAST DAYS

"And it shall come to pass in the LAST DAYS, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon ALL flesh; and your sons and DAUGHTERS shall prophesy...and on my servants and on my HANDMAIDENS I will pour out in those days of my SPIRIT" (Acts 2:17-18).

We believe that these days are the LAST DAYS and that DAUGHTERS and HANDMAIDENS, led by the Holy Spirit, should SPEAK UP. We believe that the command to SHUT UP is not for our women, today.

Everyone recognizes that the quoted prophecy was fulfilled at the time of Pentecost. And since the first Pentecost until this very day the prophecy holds. In fact it continues to hold in the future to the opening of the sixth seal (sun, moon, etc. (Acts. 2:20, Matt. 24:29, Rev. 6:12).

As we observe the present day moves of our GOD the inescapable conclusion is that some (not all) women are SPEAKING UP - and we believe rightly so.

My own personal experience shows me that women are making up for lost time. I find that on the whole, women are far more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit than are most men. In fact, I have learned to listen very carefully to every woman who is led by the Holy Spirit. I do not ignore the word because it comes from a woman. Rather, now it seems that men babble on and on to protect their doctrine and/or denomination and Holy Spirit trained women speak

incisively and get right to the point. And I admit that there are notable exceptions to what I have just said, but on the whole, it is true.

SPIRIT, SOUL, BODY

Somehow, part of our Christian society has come to the mistaken idea that when a human being has masculine parts - then that person is superior SPIRITUALLY to a human being that has feminine parts (or doesn't possess masculine parts). And I think that is ignorant to believe that way.

Possessing a masculine body does not cause a person to be superior SPIRITUALLY to a person whose body is feminine. The scriptures teach that we all receive a body that pleased GOD (I Cor. 15:38). In other words, we did not choose if we would be born a boy or a girl. That was our GOD's choice. But remember that in SPIRIT we are all masculine and in SOUL we are all feminine. So, when a person is operating in the SPIRIT, then that person is operating with masculine characteristics without regard to whether their own physical body is masculine or feminine. That is how a woman can be a SON of GOD. (GOD is SPIRIT).

That could be the reason that Paul said, "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh" (II Cor. 5:16). He could have been referring to male flesh or female flesh.

NABAL - ABIGAIL - DAVID

In the Old Testament - were women always obedient to their own husbands? No. In fact, Abigail's disobedience to her husband Nabal resulted eventually in her own great blessing. King David asked Nabal for help. The foolish Nabal refused. But Nabal's smart wife Abigail secretly delivered much help to David. Shortly after, the foolish Nabal died and the smart beautiful Abigail became David's wife. The story in I Samuel, chapter 25 makes very interesting reading.

This story refutes the idea that a female person must obey a male person because the female is inferior or that the male is superior. It just is not necessarily so.

ANANIAS and SAPPHIRA

In the New Testament we find a story where a wife made a terrible mistake by agreeing to do what her husband said. Ananias (the husband) and Sapphira (the wife) sold their home and secretly agreed

to tempt the Holy Spirit by lying concerning the price it brought. The story is in Acts, chapter 5, verses 1 through 11. They both died because of it. Sapphira would have been a lot better off if she would not have agreed (v 2,9) to obey her husband in the matter.

Don't you believe it when people tell you that a wife must obey her husband because she is a woman and he is a man.

And in the story of Nabal-Abigail-David, we see the happy finish when a female chooses to disobey her foolish husband.

TRANSLATION PROBLEM

When the Greek word DIAKONOS is used as a title for a man - it is DEACON (Phil. III, I Tim. 3:8,12). But when the very same word is used as a title for a woman the KJV translators rendered it SERVANT. (Rom. 16:1).

"I commend unto you PHEBE our sister, which is a servant of the church" (KJV), (Rom 16:1) should properly be translated, "which is a DEACON of the church."

That incorrect translation makes a person wonder if the KJV translators were somewhat subject to male chauvinism. As a DEACON we would expect Phebe to SPEAK UP. But as a SERVANT we might expect her to SHUT UP.

Phebe was a DEACON, not a DEACONESS. A female deacon is no more a DEACONESS than a teacher is a TEACHERESS or a lady doctor is a DOCTORESS.

WAS PAUL WRONG?

I have been asked the question, "Brother Dave, are you saying that Paul was wrong? Do you believe that Paul should not have written in the Bible for women to keep silence and to be in obedience?"

No. Paul was not wrong. He had a right to make that rule for the Corinthian women. Paul was the apostle to Corinth and as such had the right to make local laws there as he saw fit.

The error comes when present day Christians try to apply Paul's rule for the Corinthians to the rest of the world today.

Remember that Philip was the apostle to the saints at Caesarea (Maritime) and it was all right for women to SPEAK UP there. Furthermore, Paul did not try to force his Corinthian rule on the saints at Caesarea.

In other words, each city was autonomous. That is, each city had its own rules and each was different from the other. For instance, at Jerusalem the Christians could not eat with the Gentiles but at Antioch they did. Here is the scripture that describes different laws in different cities. "But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James (at Jerusalem) he (Peter) did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them. (believers, Acts. 21:20) which were of the circumcision" (Gal. 2:11-12).

Paul did not try to place his rules on the saints at Jerusalem. But when the Christians at Jerusalem tried to place the saints at Antioch under Jerusalem laws - then Paul walked all over them. Paul made a big fuss about it because it is wrong for one city to rule over another one. Our cassette tape titled TWO GOSPELS-THE DAY PAUL DIED has another hour of detail showing what's wrong when one city tries to lay down rules for the saints in another city.

Paul was right when he gave rules to Corinth and Antioch. Peter was right when he made rules for Jerusalem (even though the rules were different from Paul's). Philip the evangelist was right when he gave rules at Caesarea (even though the rules were different from Paul's). And nowadays Christians are wrong when they try to force the rules that were given for individual cities on other Christians in their own hometown. That's how we got so very many denominations.

OBEDY THE RULES OR LEAVE

Some denominations hold very strong ideas on the subject of whether a woman should SPEAK UP in church or whether she should SHUT UP.

The Bible says that when you are with people who cannot eat meat - don't eat meat. When you are with people who cannot drink wine - don't drink wine. When you are with people who go to church on Sunday - go on Sunday. (Romans chapter 14). And that scripture infers when you are with people who will not allow a woman to SPEAK UP - then SHUT UP if you are a woman. The Bible gives the elders at each different city the authority to make local rules for that city. That is why Christian churches should be beautifully divergent from city to city - not carbon copies of a central denominational headquarters. The Bible does not teach that

one city or group of people should make up rules of conduct for another city or group of people. Denominations invented that rule. The Bible gives rule making authority to the local apostle and local elders.

As a peaceable Christian, full of social grace, you are obliged to keep all of the rules of any church you choose to visit or attend. (Romans 14).

But the fire will start if you decide to not attend there anymore. Especially if you tell them why.

You can see that their rules are men's rules, they are not our GOD's rules. But their eyes are blinded to that. They truly (but mistakenly) believe that their rules are GOD's rules.

Paul described those people as ones who preach the gospel of the CIRCUMCISION. They mix law and grace and they cannot see the difference (Gal. 2:7).

But you are embracing the gospel of the UNCIRCUMCISION. You rely only in what JESUS did and you do not rely on any righteousness of your own.

So, if you do decide to leave them, make the split very wide because they will try to destroy you like they tried to destroy Paul (Gal. 2:4-21, Acts 15:1-40, 21:4, 11, 13, 19, 20-26).

The idea that women should SHUT UP in church comes from a very limited instruction

to a certain exact location. These are Bible examples that show that the instruction was not for the whole of Christianity. It was only for one city under a specific circumstance.

It is not wise to lift every instruction out of the Bible and apply it to our lives today. For instance, JESUS said, "Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him. And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith. Where is the guest chamber?" (Mark 14:13-15).

When I was riding the hotel elevator, a porter entered bearing a tray with a pitcher of water. I greeted him cheerfully and chuckled under my breath as I thought of what might happen if I decided to follow him. I elected to apply that command to the situation that existed at the time of JESUS and not the situation at hand.

I believe that the "WOMAN-SHUT UP" command is in exactly the same category.

MY OWN RULES

I support the authority of any denomination to make any rule that they want to make. I keep the rules wherever I visit. If I choose to not keep the rules, I do not attend there.

In my meetings I encourage women to SPEAK UP. And I'll withstand anyone to the face who dares to bring any other rule to my meetings - because they are to be blamed.