



# What the Bible says about what it doesn't say

Principles to Guide our Practices



# Silence

- When God has not addressed a subject
  - Silent  $\neq$  Not Specified
- Silence does not condemn
- Silence cannot authorize
- Presumption is assuming something is approved without grounds
  - A failure to honor God – *Cain's offering, Nadab and Abihu, Uzzah...*
- The mind of God is known through what has been revealed (**1 Cor. 2:10**)

Has God revealed principles about how we should regard His silence?

# Moses, the Original Law Giver

*“You shall be careful therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.” (Deut. 5:32)*

*“Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.” (Deut. 12:32)*

# Moses, the Original Law Giver

*“According to the instructions that they **give you**, and according to the decision which they **pronounce to you**, you shall do. You shall not turn aside from the verdict that they **declare to you**, either to the right hand or to the left.” (Deut. 17:11)*

*“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are **revealed** belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all **the words of this law.**” (Deut. 29:29)*

# Joshua

*“Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.”*

**(Joshua 1:6-7)**

# The Wise Man

*“Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.”*  
(Prov. 30:6)

# A Prophet

*“And when they say to you, “Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter,” should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.” (Isa. 8:19-20)*



# The Teaching and Testimony

- Be careful to do as the LORD has commanded
- You shall not add to, take away or turn aside from
- The secret things belong to God, but be careful to do the things revealed to us
- Do not add to His words
- Inquire of the teaching and the testimony of God

# Jesus

*“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, **“If you abide in my word,** you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)*

# The Apostles

*“Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although **we gave them no instructions...**” (Acts 15:24)*

# Paul... to a church

*“I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us **not to go beyond what is written,** that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.”*

**(1 Cor. 4:6)**

# Paul... to a Young Preacher

*“If anyone teaches a **different doctrine** and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions...” (1 Tim. 6:3-4)*

*“O Timothy, **guard the deposit entrusted to you.** Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.”  
(1 Tim. 6:20-21)*

# The Hebrew Writer

*“For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.”*

**(Heb. 7:12-14)**

# The Lord's Brother

*“But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.” (James 1:25)*

# Peter

*“whoever speaks, as one who speaks **oracles of God...**” (1 Pet. 4:11)*

- a divine declaration; a statement originating from God.

*... let him speak, as it were, the **utterances of God** (NASB)*

*... they should do so as one who speaks the **very words of God**. (NIV)*

*... let it be as one who speaks **God's words** (CSB)*



# The Teaching and Testimony

- Will we abide in His word, as true disciples do?
- Will we be troublers... speaking where we were given no instruction?
- Will we *“go beyond what is written”*?
- Will we teach a different doctrine?
- Will we guard against false *“knowledge”*?
- Will we presume to approve where the Law has said nothing?
- Will we be blessed doers of what we see in the perfect law of liberty?
- Will we speak according to what God has said?

# John, the Revelator

*“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.” (Rev. 22:18-19)*

# The Bible has a lot to say about God's Silence

Are We Listening?





OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN

# *HEAVEN*

Philippians 3:17-20

