

Does Silence
Give Consent?

Two ways a thing can be forbidden –

1. Prohibition (*thou shalt not*)
2. Silence (*when God says nothing to allow it*)

I. Where Does Bible Say 'Silence Gives Consent'?

'Silence' occurs 34x in Bible

'Silent' occurs 9x

- Where is the passage that even implies authority from silence?
- Mt.22:...34 (*Sadducees had been silenced*)
- Ac.21:40... 22:2, did silence imply agreement? (22:21-22)
- Does Bible say 'silence gives consent?'

I. Where Does Bible Say
Silence Gives Consent?

II. Does Bible Say God
Consents Without His Revelation?

'Consent' 15x in Bible

'Consented' 4x

- In every example where it implies permission a word or action makes the permission clear
 - Phm.14, what would Paul do?
 - Ac.8:1, how? 26:10-11
 - His actions confirm his consent

'Consent' 15x in Bible

'Consented' 4x

- Silence does not imply consent; it may imply disagreement
- Pr.1¹⁰ righteous says nothing . . .
 - If he says nothing, is this consent?
 - His silence refuses as loudly as words

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Silence Gives Consent?

II. Does Bible Say God
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III. We Walk By Faith, Not By Sight

2 Co.5:7 – how does faith come?

- Ro.10:17
- Hb.11:4
 - People of faith had a common denominator... Each did exactly what God said ... without addition or assumption
 - Ark: did Noah use a little pine because... “God did not say I couldn’t”?

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IV. Scriptures Everywhere
Demand Strict Obedience

God's revelation is unique: from heaven to earth

- We may tamper with men's writing without consequences... Not God's. Jer.36
- The thread...

- Dt.4:2

- Pr.30:6

- Mt.28:20

How foolish these charges would be if disciples were at liberty to practice anything on which Lord was silent! It would reduce everything He said to a mere suggestion.

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- We may tamper with men's writing without consequences... Not God's. Jer.36

- The thread...

- Lk.10:26

- Ro.3:19

- 2 Jn.9

If silence gives consent, what do these passages mean?

Why would we need the Bible at all?

God sent people to His revelation, never to silence.

AD 63: Ep.5:19, 'Thou shalt not play a piano'?

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**V. Bible Directly Denies
Consent by Silence**

1. Lv.10:1-2, why was it wrong?
2. Nu.15:...30-34, how should a sinner die?
3. 2 Chron.26, Uzziah, of Judah; not a Levite
4. Mt.3:13-14 . . . Jn.1:32-34, John
5. Ac.15:...24, most false doctrines are based on God's silence
6. 1 Co.4:6, limited to God's revelation
7. Hb.7:...13-14, did silence give permission?

Did silence give permission?

1. Nu.16:1-3, assumption: congregation / people from different tribes may function as priests
2. Nu.16:5, not enough to assume it
3. Nu.16:...28-35, 40, clear answer?
 - Did Moses' silence did give consent?
 - IF Lord would not seek Levitical priesthood because of God's silence . . . ? (Hb.7:13f) . . . why think we can act on basis of silence?

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V. Bible Directly Denies Silence...

VI. What Proves Too Much,
Proves Nothing

Do we allow child to do anything we do not expressly condemn?

- Do we allow mail order business to charge us for anything they choose to send us?
- Is Roman Catholic correct in praying to Mary though Scriptures are silent?

If silence gives consent, anything goes

Most people are concerned over what God has not said, but ignore what He has said

1. Two extremes to avoid

1. For a thing to be scriptural, it must be specifically mentioned.
2. For a thing to be forbidden, it must be specifically condemned.

Gen.6:14	General authority	Build ark	Specific authority	Gopher wood
Mt.28:19	“ ”	Go: car	“ ”	Church
Ep.5:19	“ ”	Sing	“ ”	Heart

2. Many errors arise from belief that silence gives consent

- Infant baptism
- Missionary society
- Sponsoring church / benevolent society