

Can Women Speak in Our Bible Classes?

By Robert C. Archer

A Key Verse: 1 Tim. 2:9-15

- In verses 9-10, he speaks of the woman's dress
 - “in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”

1 Tim. 2:11-12

- He says that she should be silent.
 - “The word, *hēsychia*, translated “quietness” in 1 Timothy 2:11 and **silent** in verse 12, does not mean complete silence or no talking. It is clearly used elsewhere (Acts 22:2; 2 Thes. 3:12) to mean “settled down, undisturbed, not unruly.” A different word (*sigāō*) means “to be silent, to say nothing” (cf. Luke 18:39; 1 Cor. 14:34).—Bible Knowledge Commentary

Does Silence Mean Completely Silent?

- No! She is commanded to:
 - Sing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
 - Make the good confession! (Rom. 10:10)

Does it Mean that She Can't Teach?

- No, She is commanded to teach
 - » Older are to teach the younger (Titus 2:3-5)
 - » Her children (Titus 2:4; 2 Tim. 3:15; 1:5)
 - » Give an answer to everyone that asks concerning her faith (1 Pet. 3:15)
 - » In singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)

Does it Mean that She Can't Teach?

- No, Examples of Her Teaching
 - » Aquila and Priscilla taught Apollos
(Acts 18:24-28)
 - » Philip had four daughters who prophesied
(Acts 21:8-9)
 - So he must mean that she is not to teach in such a way that she takes authority over the man. “Over the man” must modify “teach.”

In Verses 13-14, He Gives the
Reason Why:

“For Adam was formed first, then
Eve. 14 And Adam was not
deceived, but the woman being
deceived, fell into transgression.”

Another Key Passage: 1 Cor. 14:23-40

- Verse 34 “Let your women keep silent in the churches”
 - Word Silent is from “sigao” meaning to say nothing, keep silent
- Verses 28, 30 where same word is used, the prohibition was against publicly addressing the assembly.

“Keep Silent” 1 Cor 14:34

- Applies when the Church is assembled (v. 23)
 - Tongue Speakers “Keep Silent” (v. 28)
 - Prophet “Keep Silent” (v. 30)
 - Women “Keep Silent” (v. 34)
- In our classes, the church is not coming together! It is not the assembly!
- Passage is not addressing women teaching their children, etc. or *speaking up in class*.

Can She Speak in Our Bible Classes? Yes, if She:

- Remains submissive (1 Tim. 2:12)
- Means:
 - Not taking over the class
 - Getting in prolonged arguments
 - Rebuking the teacher
- (Applies To Men Also!)

Should She Speak in Class?

- Not if she violates her conscience
(Rom. 14:23)
- Not if she has a dominating personality