

# Communicating with God (35)

## A study of prayer and Bible study



Is Silence Consent?



## Studying the Bible

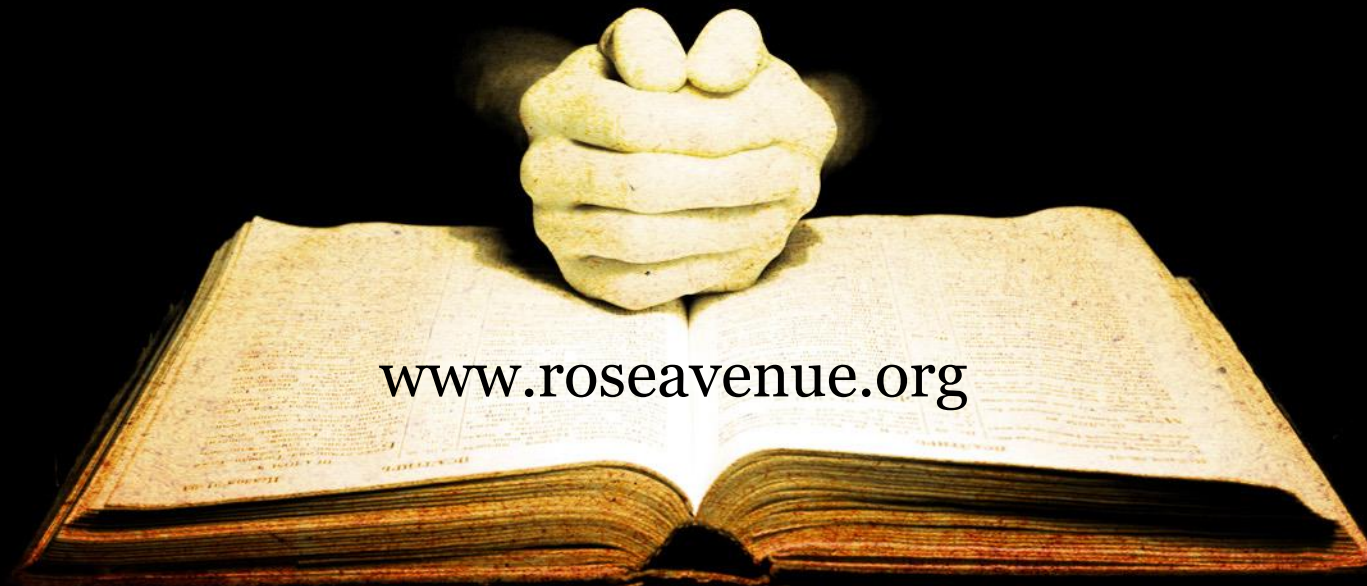


- Continuing our series about Bible study, we have begun a brief study of Authority.
- We have established what authority is (permission) and why we need authority.
- We have also noted the 3 ways we establish authority and the nature of authority (specific and generic).
- Today...



# Bible study (7)

## Is Silence Consent?



[www.roseavenue.org](http://www.roseavenue.org)

Communicating with God:  
A study of Prayer & Bible Study  
Our 2024 Theme





## Concerning Silence

- What do we do when God has not specifically prohibited something?
- Many see silence and unspecified (generic) as equal. They might say, “What God has not specifically forbidden, we are at liberty to do”
- Others - Where God is silent, we need to respect His silence. **This is my view as we shall see why.**



# Concerning Silence

- God has revealed to us His will -  
**1 Corinthians 2:10-11**
- God's word makes man complete -  
**2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:3, Psalm 119:89**
- What does silence mean? NOTHING!  
You cannot expect to know by appealing to silence!
- It is presumptuous and dangerous ground.
- Like the child told to “go get some bread”. He comes back with bread AND...
- With the Bible we are dealing with God & eternity!



A person in a light blue shirt is holding an open book, reading it. The background is dark and out of focus.

## Concerning Silence

- When God is silent, what are your options?
- He intended to be silent! **Cf. Deuteronomy 29:29**
- He intended to say something but failed or forgot!  
I will not accept this!
- In logic, consider *ad ignorantiam* (appeal to ignorance).  
The argument states something must be true because we do NOT know it is NOT.  
It is a logical fallacy - ignorance can never be a premise!
- Your assumptions are based on a LACK of information.



## Concerning Silence

- When God speaks!
- **1 Thessalonians 5:21, 1 John 4:1** test the spirits. We examine scripture and strive to determine what is intended.
- **John 17:17**, God's word is truth!
- The point: We need to accept God word AS IS and apply it as such!

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# Concerning Silence

- Concerning boundaries:
- As we have noted, God's word sets boundaries (limits).
- **Deuteronomy 12:32** - do not add or take away
- **Proverbs 30:5-6** - do not add to His words
- **Matthew 7:13-14** - difficult is the way (**7:21, cf. John 10:7, 1-2**)





# Concerning Silence

- Concerning boundaries:
- As we have noted, God's word sets boundaries (limits).
- **1 Corinthians 4:6** - don't think beyond what is written
- **2 John 9-11** - do not transgress
- **Revelation 22:18-19** - do not add or take away
- God expects us to do what He says, His way. Yet far too many say, "But God did not say I could not do it that way"



# Examples of Silence

- Examples in scripture
- **Genesis 4:1-7** - Cain's rejected sacrifice
- **Numbers 27:5** - inheritance laws - the daughters of Zelophehad
- **Hebrews 7:11-14** - the Levitical priesthood - sons of Aaron. Several attempts to subvert.
  - Korah & others - **Numbers 16:1-3**
  - Jeroboam's religion - **1 Kings 12:31**
  - King Uzziah offering sacrifices - **2 Chronicles 26:16-20**
- **Judges 21:25** - the result of ignoring God's boundaries



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## Examples of Silence

- Examples in scripture
- **1 Chronicles 13:7-12** - Uzzah struck dead for touching the ark of the covenant.  
Cf. **1 Chronicles 15:1-3, 12-15** - David admits he did not follow God's pattern.
- God's silence does NOT give permission!



## Application of silence today

- **Music in worship**
- We ONLY sing! Why?  
That is what God specified (His boundary) -  
**Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, 1  
Corinthians 14:15**
- That is what we are commanded to do! To ADD instruments is going beyond God's boundary!
- “But God did not say we could not use instruments of music...”. This is arguing from silence





## Application of silence today

- The Lord's Supper
- Unleavened bread, "fruit of the vine" (grape juice), on Sunday - **Matthew 26:26-29, 1 Corinthians 11:26ff, Acts 20:7**
- As we partake we respect God's boundaries! God specifies - prohibits everything beyond His boundaries.  
He did not have to say, "Do not partake any other day."



## Application of silence today

- **The work of the church**
- God has given us a pattern for her work-
  - Worship Him
  - Evangelism
  - Edification (spiritual)
  - Benevolence (limited to needy saints)
- Yet many have turned the church into a recreational, social or benevolent organization in ways completely silent to scripture. Worship into entertainment.
- **“But he didn’t say we could NOT do it that way” is not authority!**





## Summarizing God's Silence

- Consider these passages:
- **Isaiah 55:8-9**, “My thoughts are not your thoughts....”
- **1 Peter 4:11**, speak (and do -TT) as the oracles of God. You cannot do that by appealing to what He has NOT said!
- **Colossians 3:17**, do all in the name of the Lord
- **Psalm 19:13**, “*Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins...*”

What God says is important.

How we do what we do matters!

When it comes to serving God, we are dealing with our eternity.

What is the safe thing to do? Respect God's boundaries

**cf. Philippians 3:1**, ... *for me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.*



A close-up photograph of a person wearing a blue button-down shirt, holding an open book. The person's hands are visible at the bottom of the frame, holding the book open. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

Will you respect God's  
boundaries in  
everything you do?

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a blue button-down shirt, holding an open book. The person's hands are visible at the bottom of the frame, holding the book open. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue. The text "Let us pray!" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Let us pray!



