

“I, Not the Lord, Say...”

Question:

What did the apostle Paul mean by the statement, “But to the rest I, not the Lord, say...” (1 Cor. 7:12)? Does this phrase indicate that what Paul subsequently wrote was uninspired?

Answer:

Considering how many times Paul claimed to write and preach by inspiration of God, it is irresponsible to conclude that he was denying inspiration when addressing marriages between Christians and non-Christians (1 Cor. 7:12-16). Earlier in this letter, Paul noted that while in Corinth, his preaching was “not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (2:4-5). Paul contrasted human wisdom with the wisdom and power of God, and declared that he had the latter. Later, in this same epistle, Paul wrote: “If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord” (14:37, emp. added; cf. 7:40). Paul also claimed inspiration in his other epistles (Gal. 1:12; 1 Thess. 4:8,15). Even Peter alluded to Paul’s writings as being a part of Scripture, and thus inspired (2 Pet. 3:15-16).

When Paul wrote that he (rather than the Lord) was addressing a particular marriage relationship, he did not mean that he was speaking without authority from God. He simply meant that he was making application of marital truths that the Lord did not specifically expound upon while on Earth. Jesus most certainly was the Master Teacher (cf. Mat. 7:28-29; Jn. 7:46), but He obviously did not specifically address every subject under the Sun. Thankfully, through His inspired apostles and prophets, more specific truths and applications eventually were revealed. Christians have every reason to believe that such truths originated with “the Spirit of truth,” Who guided Paul and the rest of the Bible writers “into all truth” (Jn. 16:13).

Unexpected Prize

A salesman talked my uncle into buying 10,000 personalized pens for his business with the promise that he would be eligible to win a 32-foot yacht. A born gambler, my uncle agreed.

Well, he won, and a few weeks after the pens arrived, his prize showed up: a 12-inch plastic yacht with 32 plastic feet glued to the bottom.

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

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August 21, 2016



Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

9:30 am Bible Study

10:20 am Worship

12:30 pm Afternoon

Wednesday Night

7:pm

Will Vann, Preacher

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Silence Of The Scriptures

The appeal to “silence of the scriptures” as authority in all matters of religion is one that you will still hear in faithful congregations of the Lord’s church. In much of the religious world that uses the Bible to guide their faith the silence that is found in its pages is permissive rather than restrictive. In other words whatever God has not explicitly commanded is left for man’s own judgement. What is the truth regarding what God has not said?

For the Bible to exist in any form that would be useful to man, it would be impossible for every last detail of every event or every contingency (regarding spiritual matters) to be published. In John 21:25 the author tells us that, “there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written,” and this is only speaking of the works Jesus performed in His three years of ministry. One commentator stated that, “The Bible was not designed to satisfy our inquisitiveness. Only such materials as were consistent with the Lord’s higher purpose were incorporated into the text.” Basically, God has given us everything we need to know (c.f. 2 Pet. 1:3).

Consider also that no one book could contain specifics about every contingency that might ever arise, for when the book was completed something new would arise and it would have to be amended. Consider our own laws that constantly have to be updated to keep up with the “information age.” Yet, the Bible because of its brevity is able to be applied to any age, or culture never missing a beat when one recognizes that its silence is indeed authoritative.

Some might say that this is merely the opinion of those who wish to impose their own beliefs on others, but what does the Bible say when it is not being silent? First, notice that we must have authority for all we do in matters of religion whether in worship (Jn. 4:24), or our day to day as Christians (Col. 3:17). Second, we can see from scripture that the Bible appeals to its own silence. When discussing the priesthood of Christ, and the fact that He could not possibly be a priest according to the order of Aaron, the Hebrew writer states that, “For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood” (Heb. 7:14). God did not need to go through and list the eleven other tribes to say that they were not to be priests, all He had to do was say that the priesthood was to come from Levi and let His silence reject all others. Let us remember this as we study and apply the Bible to our lives!

Those to Serve

(B) Jeffrey Burks (FV) Doug Pruet

(O) Calvin Burks (A) Kyle Stifflemire

1st prayer Jack Wall 2nd prayer Keith Stifflemire

Announcements: Mike Mallett Singing: Mike Mallett

Prayer List: Naomi Wall , Mildred Lovell , Gene Payne, Lloyd Crownover, Ruby Jones, Pray for our nation, our Troops and Law Enforcement

You should know that to become part of the church, you must--

- believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (John 8:24; Acts 4:12; 16:31; Hebrews 11:6)
- repent of your sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30)
- confess the deity of Christ (Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37-38)
- be baptized (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 10:48; 22:16; Colossians 2:11ff; Galatians 3:24ff; 1 Peter 3:21)
- walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-7)

Happy Birthday

To

Jack Wall August 20

Mildred Lovell August 23

Cindi Wall August 26

Dates to Remember

August 28th

Noon Fellowship

September 4th

Mission Sunday

The Bible is the Word of life. I beg that you will read it and find this out for yourself. When you have read the Bible you will know it is the Word of God, because you will have found in it the key to your own heart, your own happiness, and your own duty.
WOODROW WILSON