

## Silence

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by Robert Hines

Silence makes the difference! While we see the denominations of America decide they can do as it is thought best where the Bible is silent, we also see the Bible which teaches us that the silence of the Scriptures is to be observed just like it commands!

“Why is silence important? Isn’t this being trivial and awfully picky?” When we try to teach about instrumental music in worship, or recreation as not being part of the church’s function, or keeping the local church locally autonomous we hear such questions. But silence is a part of your life.

Consider this: what if you ordered a flashlight from a mail order house, and the man processing the order says, “Aha! He is buying a very good light, so he must be going camping.” And then proceeds to send you a fine \$100 tent, a 14-foot aluminum canoe, sleeping bags and a Coleman stove as well as a good old flashlight?! It may be putting it mildly to say that that might “bother” most people. Why? Because they want what they ordered and that’s all! Or to put it another way, what was ordered excluded all other items. The alternative would be to list everything in the catalog and put a note next to each item saying “not this one!” except on the flashlight!

Why not treat God’s Word the same way? Can we not just take Him at His word and observe the quiet of Scripture as well? The principle is illustrated in Acts 15:24, Hebrews 1:5, 13 and 7:12-15 as well as in other passages. Consider these verses, please! And treat God’s Word the way He wants it treated, just as you carry on your business: observation of what you have not said as well as what you have said!

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