

# The Silence Of God

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**The most common question asked whenever God has not spoken or authorized a particular thing is the WHY CAN'T WE question.**

- **Why can't we do this thing not mentioned in the Bible?**
- **Why can't we celebrate Christmas or Easter?**
- **Why can't we baptize babies?**
- **Why can't we use instrumental music in worship?**

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- **Permissive answer:** You can (are permitted to) do ANY unmentioned thing as long as it is not specifically forbidden in the Bible.
  - *As long as God did not say, THOU SHALL NOT!*
- **Prohibitory answer:** The law of exclusion.
  - You cannot do any unmentioned thing.
    - One specific thing forbids the thing(s) not specifically mentioned.
  - The command to sing (**Ephesians 5:19**), for example, excludes the playing of an instrument in worship to God.

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## THE SILENCE PRINCIPLES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Israel at the Red Sea **Exodus 14:10-14 (p 76)**
  - We learn that we must wait for God's answer or speech to permit us to do the thing under consideration.
  - Wait for God's answer - not our presumption on God's answer.
- How long to wait?

**ACTING WITHOUT PERMISSION - AND NOT WAITING.**

**WE WILL SOON FORGET THE NEED FOR GOD'S PERMISSION IN ANYTHING!**

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## THE SILENCE PRINCIPLES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Sabbath violation **Numbers 15:32-36 (p171)**
  - Could they act themselves since God did not say?
    - Instead, they waited for the word of the Lord.
    - Moses did not speak until he inquired of the Lord!
  - They did not presume on the answer or jump to conclusions without the authority of the word of God.

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## THE SILENCE PRINCIPLES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Peter established the principle of authority **1 Peter 4:11 (p 1393)**
  - NASB - “utterances”
  - NIV - “the very words of God”

**WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS, WE SPEAK;  
WHERE THE BIBLE IS SILENT, WE ARE SILENT!**

**Silence does not authorize action;  
only God’s spoken revelation does!**

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## THE SILENCE PRINCIPLES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Priesthood of Israel *Hebrews 7:14 (p 1377)*
- Warning to the church *1 Corinthians 4:6 (p 1313)*
- Abiding in the word *2 John 9 (p 1403)*
- No adding or taking away *Revelation 22:18-19 (p 1426)*

# The Silence Of God Is Deafening

John 12:47-50 (p 1240)