

Those who respect the morals of the Bible need to oppose such degradation. Tolerance will not do. Paul said, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them” (Eph. 5:11). We are to rebuke and condemn the perversity that is practiced by a few and tolerated by millions.

We can teach our children and neighbors. We can write our representatives. We can pray that God will spare our nation and that a national repentance takes place. If things do not change, how long do you think God will withhold His wrath? His patience is not unending. His restraint only goes so far before His fury is unleashed. May we not live to see that day.

- Steven F. Deaton

“as Sodom and Gomorrah,
and the cities around them in a similar manner to these,
having given themselves over to sexual immorality
and gone after strange flesh,
are set forth as an example,
suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

- Jude 7

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Permit #10 Shepherdsville, KY	Church of Christ 3221 E. Hebron Ln. Shepherdsville, KY 40165-8959
--	--

Assemblies

Sunday Morning	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.

Elders

Tom Brown
Laymon Byers
John Smith

Evangelists

Ron Halbrook
halbrook@insightbb.com

Steven Deaton
sfdeaton@insightbb.com

502-957-5115



Hebron Herald

Published by the Hebron Lane Church of Christ
Shepherdsville, KY

Volume 32 Number 6

June 2008

Are Women Forbidden To Speak In Any Assembly?

From time to time the issue of women in the assembly comes up. The specific subject is: may they speak or must they be absolutely silent? Can they read Bible passages in a Bible class setting? Are women permitted to answer a question asked by the teacher?

The passage under consideration usually boil down to two:

“Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says” (1 Cor. 14:34).

“Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence” (1 Tim. 2:11, 12).

It is important to keep any and all passages in context and consider all the Bible has to say relating to the issue at hand.

First Corinthians 14 is dealing with specific problems in the worship assembly of the church at Corinth. There were various difficulties that hindered worshipping in spirit and truth. One problem was the use of tongues that the congregation could not understand (1 Cor. 14:1-23). Another was people trying to talk over each other. Paul instructs them to keep the number of speaker to two or three and let them each take their turn (1 Cor. 14:26-33). Those who were not up speaking were to keep silent (1 Cor. 14:28, 30). Next, the women are addressed. They are commanded to keep silent,

www.HebronLaneChurch.com

and if they have any questions let them ask their husbands at home (1 Cor. 14:34, 35).

Now, two things ought to jump out immediately. First, the women are to be silent like the men (1 Cor. 14:28, 30, 34). The same word is applied to each. It does mean silence, holding your peace. Second, what about the women who were not married? Some have explained this passage as specifically addressing the wives of the prophets who were speaking in the assembly. For instance, a woman's husband was up teaching and she blurts out a question, interrupting his teaching. She should wait until she gets home to ask questions instead of disrupting the assembly. If it is not this, then the admonition is generic that women should not cause a disturbance in the worship services by speaking out; just as the men should not cause a disturbance by speaking over each other.

Consider this: Are women permitted to sing, speaking and admonishing in the assembly (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)? Are they allowed to verbally confess Jesus as the Christ (Rom. 10:9, 10)? May a woman respond to the invitation, confess her sins to the preacher or an elder or some other man and he then relay it to the congregation (Jas. 5:16)?

In 1 Timothy 2:11, 12, the word for silence means quietness. "HESUCHIA [the Greek]...denotes quietness, 2 Thess. 3:12; it is so translated in the R.V. [Revised Version] of I Tim. 2:11, 12..." (Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words). Notice 2 Thess. 3:12. It says we are all to work in quietness—same Greek word. We know, though, the Bible does not teach us to work without speaking. Rather, we are to behave in a proper, polite, fitting manner.

Further, you will note that the passage is not confined to a worship assembly. Rather, it is a broad application. Regarding religious activities, teaching specifically, women are not to usurp authority over men. Hence, in a Bible class setting, women are not permitted to lead the class (nor are they permitted to preach to a mixed assembly).

Would a woman be in subjection if the male teacher asked her to read or answer a question and she refused? Would she not still be submissive and not usurping authority by doing as he requested? We know there are women who have a conscientious

objection to speaking in any assembly. We would not encourage them or anyone to violate their conscience (Rom. 14:23). Rather, the point is simply that a woman speaking in a Bible class does not necessarily constitute her taking control and usurping authority.

Women cannot lead in a mixed assembly. They are not authorized to take control of a class or the worship service. However, they are authorized to read passages, answer questions, or make comments in a Bible study setting under the direction, leadership, of a man. In the worship services, they are not permitted to lead (study, prayer, singing, etc.), but they are authorized to sing, confess Christ or their sins.

- Steven F. Deaton

Marching To Sodom

Many years ago Judge Robert Bork wrote a book titled "Slouching Toward Gomorrah." In it he highlighted how our nation's morals were sliding ever lower. If they were "slouching" then, they are marching now.

The pace of decay has dramatically increased. Not only has the Supreme Court struck down anti-pornography laws, but they overturned a Texas law criminalizing homosexuality. State-level supreme courts are ordering legislatures to legalize same-sex marriages or overturning their laws against them. This is not passive tolerance, but outright support. The courts are pushing the homosexual agenda on the nation.

We could have a political discussion, but that is not the point of this article. Rather, from a biblical perspective, we must recognize the sinfulness of homosexuality.

The Bible condemns it. "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due" (Rom. 1:26, 27). Homosexuality will lead people to hell (1 Cor. 6:9, 10).