

**WHAT
GOOD
WORKS
DOES A
CHURCH
PURSUE?**

Feed the homeless

School supplies for kids

Houses in Africa

Potable water in S. America

Health/Nutrition classes

Alcoholics Anon meetings

Boy Scout troops

Afterschool childcare

Cattle for poverty

Community banquets

Get out the Vote campaigns

Blood drives

Food drives

Community Watch programs

Litter & Highway cleanup

programs

Music enrichment programs

Christian sport leagues

**Need we be silent
where the
Scripture is
silent?**

PROTESTANT BATTLE OF THE 1500's



MARTIN LUTHER

Luther was concerned with finding **core principles** in the Scripture and then felt comfortable leaving the rest to human discretion and changing traditions of time and culture. Luther and his protesters kept as many Catholic traditions as they felt could be kept without compromising the basics of salvation by faith only.

VS.

WHEN THE SCRIPTURE IS SILENT, DOES THAT GIVE US FREEDOM OR BOUNDARIES?



Ulrich Zwingli

Zwingli was looking for the Bible to provide a **complete blueprint** for all time that laid out the details for church government, worship, and rules for behavior.

Zwingli and his reformers threw out everything, they stripped the cathedrals bare, removed relics, organs, altar equipment, priestly vestments, and more.

WHEN THE SCRIPTURE IS SILENT, DOES THAT GIVE US FREEDOM OR BOUNDARIES?

**EVERYONE
AGREES
ON TWO
THINGS:**

1. If God says you must do something – you must do it.
2. If God says you cannot do something – you must not do it.

BUT WHAT IF GOD DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT
SOMETHING AT ALL? THEN WHAT?!



MARTIN LUTHER

VS.



Ulrich Zwingli

**PROTESTANT
CHURCHES teach
FREEDOM in silence.**

**WHEN THE SCRIPTURE IS SILENT, DOES THAT
GIVE US FREEDOM OR BOUNDARIES?**

**CHURCHES OF CHRIST
teach BOUNDARIES in
silence.**

**PROTESTANT
CHURCHES teach
FREEDOM in
silence.**

If God commands
something – we do it.

If God forbids something
– we don't do it.

If God is silent, we **are**
free to do as we please.

**CHURCHES OF
CHRIST teach
BOUNDARIES in
silence.**

If God commands
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**WHAT DOES THE
BIBLE SAY ABOUT
WHAT THE BIBLE
DOESN'T SAY?**

SPECIFIC COMMANDS ABOUT SILENCE

1 Pet 4:11 “If any man speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God”

Deut 4:2 “You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it...” (similar language in Rev. 22:18-19)

1 Cor 4:6 “that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written”

2 Jn 9 “Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God.”

Gal 1:6-9 “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him... and are turning to a different gospel”

EXAMPLES OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SILENCE

CAIN & ABEL (Gen 4)

And **the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering**, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.
(Gen 4:4-5)

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he had witness borne to him that he was righteous (Heb 11:4)

EXAMPLES OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SILENCE

CAIN & ABEL
(Gen 4)

DAVID & UZZAH
(1 Chr 13-15)

Because you did not carry it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not seek Him **according to the rule**. (1 Chr 15:13)

WHAT IS THE RULE?

If God didn't say you can,
then you can't.

EXAMPLES OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SILENCE

CAIN & ABEL

(Gen 4)

DAVID & UZZAH

(1 Chr 13-15)

NADAB & ABIHU

(Lev 10)

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which **He had not commanded them.** (Lev 10:1)

EXAMPLES OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SILENCE

CAIN & ABEL

(Gen 4)

DAVID & UZZAH

(1 Chr 13-15)

NADAB & ABIHU

(Lev 10)

THE APOSTLES

(Acts 15)

Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although **we gave them no instructions**, (Acts 15:24)

EXAMPLES OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SILENCE

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THE APOSTLES
(Acts 15)

**JESUS THE
PRIEST**
(Heb 7)

For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe **Moses said nothing** about priests. (Heb 7:13-14)

**PROTESTANT
CHURCHES teach
FREEDOM in
silence.**

Silence gives
permission for
their **feelings** to
be their guide.

**CHURCHES OF
CHRIST teach
BOUNDARIES in
silence.**

Silence sets
boundaries, so we
may have
confidence
regardless of our
feelings.

**If the PROTESTANT
DENOMINATIONS' way of
determining Bible authority is correct
– then join the denominations.**

**If the CHURCHES OF CHRIST's way of
determining Bible authority is correct –
then be a member of the Lord's church.**

