

LAW AND ORDER

1 Corinthians 14:26-40

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Everything Paul says about *church order* and *creation order* has its basis in *Christ's orders*.

I. Church Order (14:26-33a)

Spiritual gifts must be exercised in orderliness to build up the body.

This principle holds true for *all the gifts*, and that is why Paul supplies a representative sampling of them to headline this passage – songs, teachings, revelations, tongues, and interpretations.

II. Creation Order (14:33b-36)

Spiritual gifts must be submitted to God's ordering of creation.

What does Paul mean by "keep silent" and "not permitted to speak"? Does he mean these *absolutely*?

- *1 Corinthians 11:4-5*

The silence Paul is describing here is defined by the context.

Why does Paul refer to "the Law"? What is he referring to?

- *Genesis 2:20-24*
- *1 Corinthians 11:7-9*
- *1 Timothy 2:8-15*

What are the Biblical roles of husbands and wives?

- *Ephesians 5:22-33*
- *1 Peter 3:1-7*

Conclusion: Paul grounds his requirement that women be silent with respect to evaluating prophecy in God's ordering of creation.

Note: The command to "keep silent" is repeated *three times* in this passage: once for tongues, once for prophecy, and once for women. Paul demands, under certain conditions, silence of everyone in view in the corporate gathering, not just women.

Timothy Keller:

"To stay away from Christianity because part of the Bible is offensive assumes if there is a God he wouldn't have any views that upset you."

III. Christ's Orders (14:37-40)

Spiritual gifts are not only given by Jesus they are governed by Jesus.

- *Ephesians 4:7-8*

Resources for Study of *1 Corinthians 14:26–40*

Beginner:

Andreades, Sam A., *enGendered: God's Gift of Gender Difference in Relationship* (Wooster, OH: Weaver Book Company, 2015).

Craig Blomberg, *1 Corinthians, The NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994).

Intermediate:

David E. Garland, *1 Corinthians, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003).

Advanced:

D. A. Carson, "'Silent in the Churches': On the Role of Women in 1 Corinthians 14:33b–36," in *Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism*, ed. John Piper and Wayne Grudem (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2006).

D. A. Carson, *Showing the Spirit: A Theological Exposition of 1 Corinthians 12–14* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1987).

John Piper and Wayne Grudem, *Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2006).

Gordon D. Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*, ed. Ned B. Stonehouse et al., Revised Edition., *The New International Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2014).