

33 (As in all the churches of the saints)³⁴ The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.

- Sometimes we think that we can improve upon what God has commanded, but we may be sure of this: that His ways are always best.
- The true test of love for Christ is conformity to His Word.
- He knows best what each one of us should do in order to glorify Him.

35 If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.

- Rather than calling out a question in the middle of some male or female prophet's message, a woman was to wait and ask her husband about it at home after the service.
- Presumably, unmarried women would ask their fathers or some other man in the church after the service.

36 Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only?

- They did not set the standard for how the church meetings should proceed.
- The Corinthian church was not the mother church.
- The Corinthian readers should submit to the apostle's direction.

37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

- **Submission to apostolic authority was the test, not speaking in tongues.**
- Submissiveness to the apostles and their teaching was an expression of submission to the Lord Himself (cf. 7:10, 25). **It still is.**

38 But if anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.

- The Corinthians should not recognize anyone who refused to acknowledge the apostle's authority.
- Failure to recognize the Lord as the source of Paul's teaching would lead to that person's failure to be acknowledged (with approval) by the Lord

39 Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues.

- Prophecy is the priority. Tongues are to be regulated, but not forbidden.

40 But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

- Christians should do everything in a decent and orderly manner, everything should be edifying (v. 26), and a spirit of peace should prevail (v. 33).