

Silence of the Scriptures

Authority of the Bible

Matthew 21:23-27

- By What Authority ?
- John's Baptism ?
- TWO answers
 - God or man
 - Either God authorized it –
or He did NOT



History of this Debate

- How do we treat the silence of the Scripture?
- If CONDEMNED – never can do such.
- If NOT condemned – then OK ?
- If NOT authorized - prohibited

Tertullian

- Ca. 150-222
- Some: “the thing which is not forbidden is freely permitted.”
- Tertullian:
 - “ I should rather say that what has not been freely allowed is forbidden.”

John Wycliff and John Huss

- Utraquists – forbade ONLY those practices specifically condemned by the Bible, thus tolerating anything without explicit condemnation.
- Taborites: rejected all practices for which express warrant in the Bible could not be found.

Taborites

Rejecting what NOT authorized = Reject

- Transubstantiation
- Prayers for the dead
- Indulgences
- Priestly confession
- Dancing
- Etc.

Does Silence Authorize?

Two views espoused during the reformation movement



Martin Luther
1483-1546

“whatever is without the word of God is, by that very fact, against God.”

Deut. 4:2, etc.

Does Silence Authorize?

Two views espoused during the reformation movement



Martin Luther
1483-1546

**“Whatever is not
against scripture
is for scripture,
and scripture for
it”**

*[Handbook of Denominations,
pg. 132]*

Does Silence Authorize?

Two views espoused during the reformation



Martin Luther
1483-1546

*Silence gives
us liberty to
act as we
see best*

Does Silence Authorize?

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**Silence
Does
NOT
authorize**

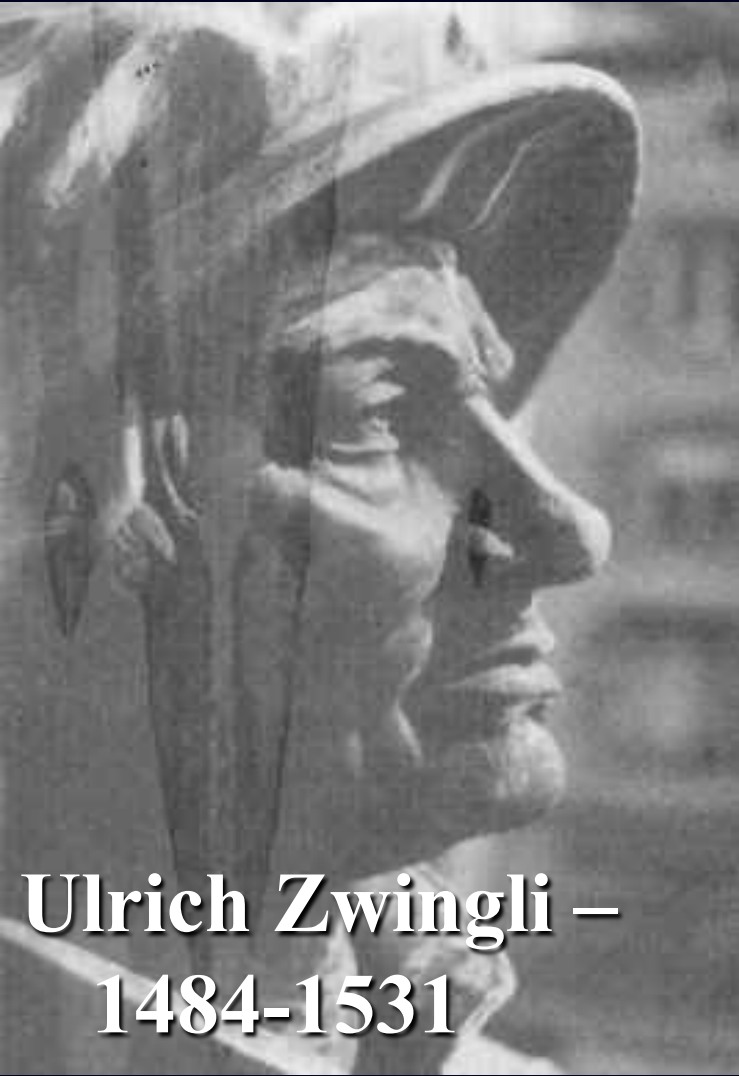
***“What the Bible
does not
command we may
not do,”***

(Col 3:17)

**Ulrich Zwingli –
1484-1531**

Does Silence Authorize?

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Ulrich Zwingli –
1484-1531

Gave up images,
crosses, indulgences,
observing the mass,
and the practice of
celibacy, and the use of
organs in the church on
the basis of this
principle.

[The Discovery And Reformation – [<http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/REFORM/ZWINGLI.HTM>]

Does Silence Authorize?

Two views espoused during the reformation

"While Luther was disposed to leave untouched what the Bible did not prohibit, Zwingli was more inclined to reject what the Bible did not enjoin."

(The Reformation, 1899, p. 145, Joe Neil Clayton, The Thunderous Silence Of God, p. 70 quoted from George P. Fisher)

WHY Luther over Zwingli view?

- Zwingli – died 1531
- Luther – died 1546
- Influence became stronger -

A Principle of life

- Purpose of an organization
- When placing an order ...
- Doctor and pharmacist ...

Deut. 4:2

- Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Deut. 12:32

- What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Proverbs 30:5-6

- Every word of God *is* pure:
he *is* a shield unto them that
put their trust in him.
6 Add thou not unto his
words, lest he reprove thee,
and thou be found a liar.

Why? We are Not God

- 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isa. 55:8-9

Prov. 14:12

- 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Jeremiah 10:23

- 23 I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.

2 John 1:9-10

- Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Revelation 22:18-19

- For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, *If any man shall add unto these things,* God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

1 Corinthians 4:6

- And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us *not to think of men above that which is written*, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

1 Cor. 4:6 NKJV

- Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us *not to think beyond what is written*, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

Illustrations of such

- Nadab & Abihu –
 - strange fire –
 - which ‘not commanded’

Illustrations of such

- Uzzah and the Ark –
 - Not follow the due order

Illustrations of such

- Moses and the rock –
 - NOT told NOT TO strike the rock

Illustrations of such

- Jesus and the priesthood –
 - ‘spoke nothing concerning’
 - HENCE change the LAW in order to ALLOW!

Hebrews 7:11-14

Does Silence Authorize?

The Biblical View

The s

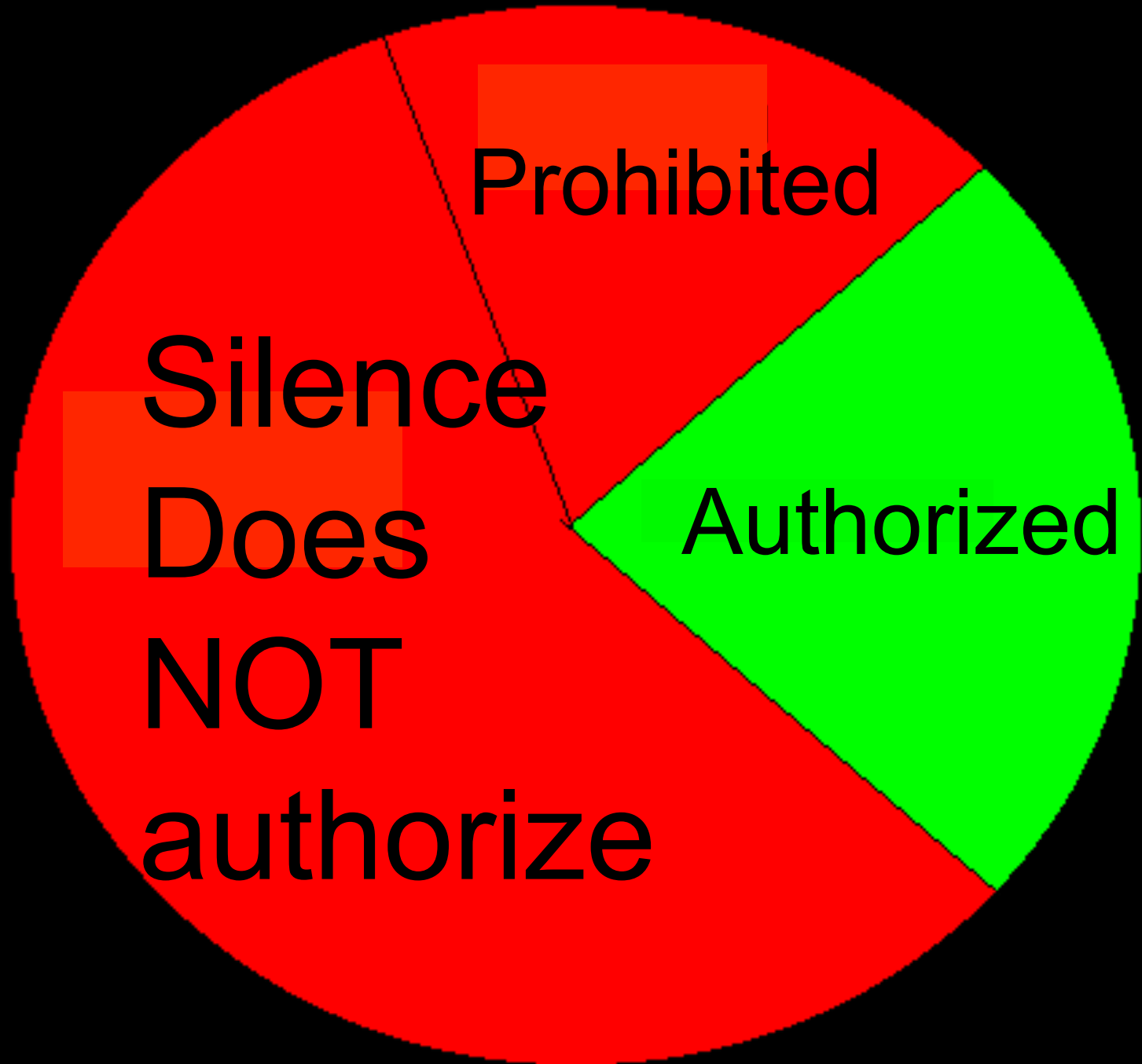
(Acts 15)

**Silence is
NO authority!**



ications
v. 7-11

- ❑ The final resolution to the problem was this: *to whom we gave no such commandment.* v. 24



Obeying God

- Follow pattern of sound words
(2Tim. 1:13)
 - if it is NOT SPOKEN —
 - no words to follow

Obeying God

- continue in what you have learned (2 Tim. 3:14)
 - if it is not TAUGHT –
 - nothing to continue in

Obeying God

- If we follow the examples ..
 - 1 Cor. 11:1
 - if there is no example –
 - nothing to follow

Obeying God

- Speak as the oracles of God
 - (1 Pet. 4:11)
 - if it is not in the oracle –
 - then nothing to speak

Applying the principle

- Women elders .. ?
 - ‘husband of one wife’
 - 1Tim. 3:2

Applying the principle

- Cardinals, Arch-Bishops, Popes, etc...?
 - elders in every church –
Acts 14:23

Applying the Principle

- Names –
 - Lutheran, Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Campbellite, etc.
 - Called Christians - Acts 11:26

Applying the principle

- Cookies and cake for the Lord's supper ...
 - bread & fruit of the vine...

Applying the principle

- Play an instrument ...
 - SING... Eph. 5:19
 - Col. 3:16
 - Word dwell in richly
 - teach / admonish –
 - SINGING

Applying the principle

- Sprinkle as a religious practice ?
 - immerse – Rom. 6:3-4

Applying the principle

- ‘baptize infants’ .. ???
 - he that believeth and is baptized .. Mk 16:16
 - when they believed they were baptized .. Acts 8:12

Purpose of Baptism

- Believe + Baptism = Saved
- ‘baptized’ = saved -- later believe
- believe = saved ---- later baptized

Generic vs Specific

- Generic –
 - specifics may not be spoken of but allowed within this category.
 - But when God specifies – NOT make GENERIC

Generic - Specific

- Make Ark
 - wood, metal, plastic ?
- Make Ark – Gopher Wood
 - NOT any other MATERIAL
 - NOT any other WOOD
- Gopher wood ?
 - light vs dark ?
 - ‘aged’ vs ‘new’ ?

Sing

- Sing - specified
 - generic – speed –
 - fast, slow, medium,
 - generic – volume -
 - loud, soft, medium
 - PLAY is not a generic of SING

Generic & specific

- Sing → make music
 - make music → Play
 - Sing = play ?

Baptism specifics

- WHO
 - men & women – specific
 - NOT children
 - Though doesn't say NOT TO>
 - NOT authorized
 - Believers
 - NOT unbelievers
 - though doesn't say NOT TO.
 - NOT authorized

Also

- Matt. 15 - not follow traditions of MEN
- Gal. 1:8-9 – NOT teach OTHER doctrine
- Col. 3:16-17 – all by HIS Authority
- 1 Peter 4:11 – Speak as oracles of God
- Jude 3 – contend for THE Faith
- Acts 15:24 - which WE did not command

Complete

- John 16:13 – all truth
- 2 Peter 1:3 – All things – life & godliness
- 2 Tim. 3:16-17 – Completely furnished
- Colossians 2 – the false teachers
 - Enticing words - 4
 - tradition of men / philosophy - 8
 - Old Testament – 14-17
 - Mysticism – 18-19
 - Asceticism - 20