

## The Sisters' Place in the Local Church

Another characteristic of the Scriptural assembly is the position it holds with regard to the sisters. Before continuing, let me say that we owe more to godly sisters among us than we realize or admit. The spiritual standards of our assemblies would be greatly impaired were it not for the impact of our godly women.

Following the example of the first-century church, we believe in the silence of the sisters in public meetings. The two outstanding scriptures which support this are [1 Cor 14:34-35](#), "And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home; for it is a shame for women to speak in the church," and [1 Tim 2:11-12](#), "Let the women learn silence with all subjection. But I permit not a woman to teach, not to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."

Alas, the winds of change are blowing. There are many among us who have challenged, and are challenging, this particular truth. Despite these attacks, the unalterable principles of Scripture remain immovable and support the truth of the silence of sisters in the public meetings. The carrying out of this divine principle is God-glorifying.

While adhering to this teaching, we readily admit that there are many spheres in which sisters can serve, and in many instances more acceptably than brethren. We thank God for the faithful attendance at the meetings. Their absence would cut the audiences by at least 60 percent. Most assemblies could not survive without their financial support. Their work in visitation is invaluable. In work of this type, situations can arise which only a sister can deal with. Our Sunday Schools and extra-curricular activities among the young could not survive without their help. Our missionary endeavor would be greatly restricted were it not for the faithfulness and sacrifice of our dear sisters. Which one of us could estimate the value of their effectual and fervent prayers in any local gathering, or in the far-flung mission fields of the world. We should thank God for the dear sisters who, like Phoebe, are true servants of the church.