

Consider the Context

Context, the Key to Understanding

- **To be truly understood, any statement must be considered in light of its context**
- **An example is found in Jesus' statement, "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37)**
 - **By reading the surrounding verses, we realize Jesus meant for us to love our neighbor by being merciful to him when we see him in need**
 - **Our understanding of "neighbor" is found in Jesus' answer to the lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbor?" (All who are in need)**

The Three Parts of Context

- **The specific statement itself**
- **The immediate context, which includes verses immediately before and after**
- **The remote context, which includes all that is said in the whole Bible about the thing being considered**
- **“A text out of its context is simply a pretext.”**

“Let Your Women Keep Silent”

- **1 Cor. 14:34 “Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says.”**
 - **Vss. 19, 23 & 25 show “churches” = assemblies**
 - **The chapter shows these instructions involve the use of spiritual gifts in the assembly**
 - **Women are not permitted to lead in public worship (1 Timothy 2:8-12) and Paul says they should remain silent while spiritual gifts are being used**

“Let Your Women Keep Silent”

- **Vs. 35 causes us to think some women were interrupting husbands as they prophesied**
 - **In this way they disrupted the peace of the assembly by asking questions about their prophecy before it was completed**
- **The women, and particularly the wives, were forbidden to interrupt a prophecy in progress**
 - **Note: other men waiting to prophesy had to wait to speak, too (vs. 30)**

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ

- Paul & Silas’ answer to the Philippian jailer’s question, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”**
- The context reveals they taught him the word of the Lord, he washed their stripes and was baptized immediately, along with his family**
- Vs. 34 says, “And he brought them up into his house, and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, with all his house, having believed in God,” clearly indicating belief in God involves hearing the truth and being baptized (compare Galatians 3:26-27)**

The Sin Unto Death

- **1 John 5:16 Speaks of the sin unto death that a brother might commit and others should not pray for him**
 - **Vss. 13-15 speaks of the obedient Christian having great confidence in the power of prayer**
 - **Then, John says one can ask for a brother who does not sin unto death and receive eternal forgiveness for him**
 - **One committing a sin unto death cannot be prayed for, perhaps because denial of sin makes God a liar and such sin would be unconfessed, therefore unforgiven (1 John 1:10; James 5:16)**

The Resurrection of the Dead

- **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** describes the resurrection of the righteous
 - The dead in Christ will be raised first
 - Then, the living will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air
 - There is no room for these resurrections to be separated
- **2 Thessalonians 1:7-10** tells us the wicked will be punished at the Lord's return when he is glorified in his saints
- **John 5:28-29** says both good and bad will come forth in the same hour

“Do You Love Me More Than These?”

- **John 21:15** has Jesus asking Peter this question
 - It may have reminded Peter of the time when the Lord had him cast out his nets after a fruitless night
 - Jesus may have been asking Peter if he would continue to forsake his nets for him
 - Likely it would also remind him of his confident boast and the denial that followed (Matthew 26:31-33, 69-75)
 - Now he does not express such confidence but expresses a genuine love