

Living in a world of silence

We live in a world full of noise yet silent. We have music coming at us from many sources. When we walk through shopping centers, at the doctors or dentists, in the car, at home, on TV, iPod, MP3, in clubs, pubs, and at work to just name a few. We live in the immersion of music. Sound is all around us. We hear it every day.

Some people even sing, and probably shouldn't, or hum the tune in their head. We are surrounded by noise. Yet silence while golden in some situations has become the norm for many of us.

Added to this we have people who are speaking yet staying quiet. They say plenty of things yet say nothing at all. We can talk around a subject, talk about nothing, and even talk with no meaning, just for the sake of it. Yet we remain silent.

Silence is golden. There are moments in our lives when we need to remain quiet. We need to assess the situation before opening our mouths; otherwise we can literally end up with foot and mouth disease. We need silence for reflection, to ponder on the events of the day, or the possibilities of the future. It helps us clear our minds and gives us a new perspective on life. Silence is golden.

However, many people have taken this too far. We speak about things we don't know or understand yet remain silent on things we should speak about. We don't want to offend people. We don't want to run the risk of being labeled extremist or foolish so we remain quiet. We hold our tongues. Yet life demands that we speak up. We speak about the things on our hearts without fear.

Too often we remain silent on things we have authority over. Take for example when parents not disciplining their children. They don't correct them for fear of losing them. They don't want to 'damage their fragile self esteem'. The only problem with this is that by not speaking up we end up doing more damage to their self-esteem. You see they end up not knowing where they stand. They end up not knowing how to stand, how to respond how to speak up. They may end up feeling rejected while we become frustrated and we end up both doing things we wished later we had not done.

What about talking to your spouse or partner? Do we remain silent? Silence here leads to a void that is too often filled with self doubt or fear which in turn leads to division and strife. We don't respond to questions or don't make decisions. Inactivity robs us of relationship and passion. Fear creeps in and we withdraw even more. Silence is definitely not golden here. Real 'men' speak up. Not in a forceful way but in a straight way. Just get it out there. Stop allowing our inaction from directing us to nowhere.

The bible says "it is not good for man to be alone'. When you are alone silence rules the world. We are meant to be together, work together and live together. Having a difference of opinion is not wrong. We need differences of opinion so that we can have agreement. If there were no difference of opinion there would be no agreement. Being silent because we don't want to rock the boat will only lead us to a place of division – no agreement. Let's get big enough to share what we have, make the decision to walk together and learn the art of talking again.

Learn the art of talking while speaking. Saying something that needs to be said, sharing something that has to be shared, and being big enough to know that we don't know everything.

Silence may be golden but it can also be deadly.