

**Is the practice of "Team Teaching" a biblically acceptable method of teaching a public Bible Study class?**

**What is "Team Teaching?"** - **"Team Teaching"** is the practice of a couple, typically husband and wife, teaching a children's Bible study class at such times as Vacation Bible School, and even those on the Lord's Day assembly.

The practice of **"Team Teaching"** public Bible study classes is of recent origin within some churches of Christ, but as this author searched the Internet in preparation for this tract, it was not hard to see that it is not so "recent" when it comes to our denominational friends and neighbors. This fact alone cannot be used to answer the question which has already been posed. Let us examine for a moment this method of **"Teaching"** in light of what we in churches of Christ call the **"Authority Principal."**

**What is the "Authority Principal?"** - We as members of the church of Christ believe that all we do in work and worship to God as members of Christ's church must have "authority" from the Word of God, the Bible, and that we can arrive at this "authority" only from the Bible by means of **(1) Direct Command, (2) Approved Apostolic Example, and (3) Necessary Implication.** As an example, let us look at just three Scriptures that pertain to the Lord's Supper. Concerning the **reason** we are to partake of the Lord's Supper, Jesus said in reference to the unleavened bread, *"This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me," (Luke 22:19).* We see the **"Direct Command"** in Jesus' words *"do this."* Concerning the **day** upon which we partake of the Lord's Supper, we read in **Acts 20:7,** *"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread. . ."* From this Scripture we have an **"Approved Apostolic**

**Example"** as to **when** we partake of the Lord's Supper. Lastly, concerning **how often** we are to partake of the Lord's Supper, we know from the Old Testament example of the Israelite's observance of the Sabbath day that God said, *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy," (Ex. 20:8).* Notice, God **did not** say *"remember every Sabbath day, to keep it holy."* The Israelites knew that every week had a Sabbath day, and so it was a **"Necessarily Implication"** that they were to keep **every** Sabbath day holy, though God did not use the word **every.** Likewise, concerning the partaking of the Lord's supper every first day of the week, we should realize that every week has a first day, and so it is a **"Necessarily Implication"** that we are to partake of the Lord's supper every first day of the week.

**Do we have a "Direct Command" to "Team Teach" in our Bible study classes?** - In **Matt. 28:19,20,** as part of what is known as the **Great Commission,** we read the words of Jesus as He told His disciples, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* From these Scriptures we see the **"Direct Command"** to **"Go"** and to **"teach,"** but we do not see a **"Direct Command"** for doing this teaching by means of **"Team Teaching."**

**Do we have an "Approved Apostolic Example" to "Team Teach" in our Bible study classes?** - I know of only one Bible account of a husband and wife couple teaching someone else about the Word of God. In **Acts chapter 18** we learn of a disciple of Jesus Christ named Apollos who had come to the city of Ephesus. **Acts 18:24** tells us that he was *"an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures."* We notice in the next verse, **verse 25,** that *"this*

*man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John."* Also living in Ephesus at this time were two Christians, a husband and wife, named Aquila and Priscilla. **Acts 18:26** tells us that when Apollos *"began to speak boldly in the synagogue"* that Aquila and Priscilla heard him and, realizing that *"he knew only the baptism of John,"* **verse 26** tells us *"they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately."* From these verses we see a Christian couple, a husband and wife, who took someone *"aside,"* meaning they did this in a private way, and corrected his misunderstandings about John's baptism, according to the context. Why is the fact that this study took place *"privately"* pertinent to answering our initial question? The answer to this question we will notice a bit later in our study, but one can see that there is a difference in the teaching done by Aquila and Priscilla to Apollos than that typically done in **"Team Teaching."**

**Does God's command to "teach" "Necessarily Imply" the use of "Team Teaching?"** - As already noticed, we do have a **"Direct Command"** to **"teach," (Matt. 28:19,20),** but the specific **"ways"** or **"methods"** of teaching are not specifically outlined in the New Testament. This fact allows for the use of **"expediences"** in carrying out the **"Direct Command"** to **"teach."** We must realize that an **"expediency"** cannot violate other commands or sound Bible principals and still be pleasing to God. And so, we should ask ourselves, ***"Is Team Teaching an expediency that assists us in fulfilling the command to teach without violating other direct commands or sound Bible principals?"*** To help us arrive at an answer to this question, let us notice more Scriptures that concern the overall subject of **"teaching."**

Concerning the biblical subject of "teaching," specifically as it pertains to women, the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy in **1 Tim. 2:12 (KJV)**, "*And I do not permit a woman to teach or to usurp authority over a man, but to be in silence.*" In light of what we have already noticed about **Acts 18:26**, concerning Priscilla's part in her and her husband's teaching of Apollos, one might think that there is a contradiction in the Scriptures. One could not be further from the truth concerning any part of the Bible! When it comes to the subject under discussion, this is true because it is clear to see that the teaching that took place in **Acts 18:26** was in a "private" setting, not a "public" setting. The context of **1 Tim. 2:12**, and actually the entire epistle of **1 Timothy**, is that of Christian behavior in the "assemblies" of the church. How does this relate to the question under discussion? Let us recap what we have noticed thus far: We know that it is biblically acceptable for a woman to assist a man in teaching someone religious truth in a "private" setting (**Acts 18:26**), but when it comes to "public" teaching, as in the assemblies of the church on the Lord's Day, mid week Bible study, Vacation Bible Schools, etc. , a woman is not to "teach or to usurp authority over the man," (**1 Tim. 2:12, KJV**).

Some may reason that the "Team Teaching" method does not violate **1 Tim. 2:12** because the male children that are being taught by the women in these classes have not likely obeyed the gospel, and, even if they have, are not yet what one would consider a "man" over which the woman could "usurp authority." While that may be so, what about the other half of this teaching team? Is the woman's husband, or her male counterpart, not a "man" whose "authority" can be "usurped" when the woman is teaching? If the female half of this teaching team can teach in a public setting, in the presence of her husband or male counterpart, without "usurping authority"

over him, could she not also pair up with that same male counterpart and go to the adult class and "Team Teach" as well, without "usurping authority" over those men in that class? **If not, why not?**

In closing I would ask those who are practicing this style of "teaching" not to be offended at the author for these questions in light of what the Bible says about teaching. Furthermore, please do not assume that the author is not the least bit concerned with the teaching of our young people in the Lord's church, or falsely accuse me of not seeing the real necessity in teaching our children. The author has taught almost as many children's Bible classes as he has adult Bible classes, and is a firm believer in teaching our children the Bible first and foremost in our homes! I have seen how little effort is made by so many Christian parents to encourage their children to attend Bible study classes instead of attending ball practice, ball games, club meetings, and the like. I have heard so many prayers in my Christian life that "**our youth is the future of the church,**" but have seen so much hypocrisy in the lives of those who have uttered these words to Almighty God! My prayer is that we will not be guilty of doing wrong as we attempt to do what is needed and right (**Rom. 3:8**)!

**The End**

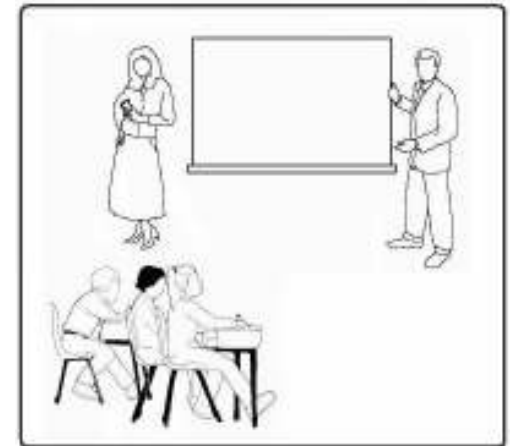
**All Scripture quotations taken from the New King James Version of The Holy Bible unless otherwise noted.**

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## Is "Team Teaching" a Bible Study Class Scriptural?



**Bible Answers  
for  
Bible Questions**