

What We Come To Church To Do – Worship Pt.2

July 15, 2018

The Church is God's Temple

Revelation 1:10-16 ESV

10 **I was in the Spirit** on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

11 saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning **I saw seven golden lampstands,**
13 and **in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man,** clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.

14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. **His eyes were like a flame of fire,**

15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and **his voice was like the roar of many waters.**

16 **In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.**

Revelation 1:20 ESV

20 As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

- *Jesus is continually present among His Churches, and He knows the conditions and works of each one.*
- *Would the church we are attending get a letter? Would Jesus recognize our church as one of His own?*

Revelation 21:1-3 ESV

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

2 And I saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem,** coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "**Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**

- *Does the present-day trajectory of the Church match its eternal destiny and eternal identity?*
- *As the dwelling place of God, we are to never neglect, but to care for the needs of the world around us.*
- *Luke 11:42 ESV "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."*
- *But the primary focus and first priority must always be a holy and spotless bride prepared for her Husband, Jesus. That is our eternal destiny and eternal identity.*

Ephesians 2:21-22 ESV

21 **in whom the whole structure, being joined together, (*synarmologeō - to render close-jointed, fitly frame together*) grows into a holy temple in the Lord.**

22 **In him you also are being built (*synoikodomeō - to construct or put together several things to build one whole*) together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.**

- *God inhabits His temple.*
- *God's temple is for worship and service to God, not man.*
- *How, where and with whom we are joined together is God's design, not ours.*
- *God's design of how, when and where we are joined together is not just earthly, but eternal in the heavenly.*

1 Peter 2:5 ESV

5 **you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

- *God, His glory and His worship are the focus in His temple; not man, not his temporal needs nor his earthly desires.*

Romans 12:1 ESV

1 **I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.**

- *The purpose of our worship is to glorify God in absolute and unconditional surrender to His plan and purposes.*
- *The purpose of being a living temple for God, for serving as priests in this temple, is the glorification of God, not the glorification of man; the gratification of God, not the gratification of man.*

God in Our Midst

Matthew 18:20 ESV

20 **For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."**

Psalms 22:3-5 ESV

3 **Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

4 **In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

5 **To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

John 17:3 ESV

3 **And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.**

Hebrews 8:11 ESV

11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

Luke 6:17-19 ESV

17 And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon,

18 who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.

19 And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

Luke 8:43-46 ESV

43 And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone.

44 She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.

45 And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!"

46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me."

Limiting God in our Midst

Romans 15:5-6 ESV

5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,

6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Worship in the Assembly

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 ESV

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

2 You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.

3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;
 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.
 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,
 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

- *God is present in our assembly, and He is not silent.*
- *As we come in unity of mind and heart to worship Him, giving Him the glory and gratitude He deserves, He talks back to us through the gifts imparted by the Holy Spirit.*
- *This interaction in God's temple is a holy communion and a supernatural conversation.*

By formatting the church service to be a spectator event instead of a family relationship, we have gutted from church the very heart and soul of Christianity, which is the worship of God through relationship with one another.

The worship of God can never be separated from community; each member actively contributing, serving and ministering the gift God has imparted. Worship which is separated from community ceases to be supernatural worship and is downgraded to a human performance.

1 Corinthians 14:26-33 ESV

26 What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
 27 If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret.
 28 But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.
 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said.
 30 If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent.
 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged,
 32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.
 33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

- *The gifts of the Holy Spirit ALWAYS function for the purpose of building up the assembly, God's temple, in faith, encouragement, purity and holiness, preparing the Bride for her Husband Jesus.*
- *The gifts of the Holy Spirit are NOT used for the purpose of personal promotion or earthly success, although the personal needs of individuals are never overlooked by the Holy Spirit.*
- *The gifts of the Holy Spirit ALWAYS operate in the spirit of order and accountability.*

Romans 12:1-11 ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,

5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;

8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

- *There is no definitive list of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. What gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit is based upon the need of the moment and the season.*
- *In the typical church service today, the gifts of the Holy Spirit have been all but eliminated. The gifts of the Holy Spirit have been replaced with natural talent, personal charisma, groomed professionalism and worldly education.*

Romans 1:11-12 ESV

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you--

12 that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

1 Corinthians 14:1 ESV

1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

- *For the sake of the Church, we must stop trusting in human methods and human abilities.*
- *Seek and pursue the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit.*

House Churches in the 1st Century Church

Acts 2:46-47 ESV

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 5:42 ESV

42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Acts 8:3 ESV

3 But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Acts 12:12 ESV

12 When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

Acts 20:20 ESV

20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,

Romans 16:5 ESV

5 Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.

1 Corinthians 16:19 ESV

19 The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

Colossians 4:15 ESV

15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

1 Timothy 5:13 ESV

13 Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not.

Philemon 1:2 ESV

2 and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house: