

The Church's Responsibility in Worship

1 Cor 14:23-26

Introduction:

- A. We commonly classify "The Work of The Church" as Evangelism, Edification and Benevolence.
 - 1. Worship is usually listed as a separate category, but should it not also be included in the work?
 - 2. Self edification, rather than a separate work, is a part of preaching, worship and benevolence.
 - a. Part of the work of evangelists, pastors, and teachers is to edify the church (Eph. 4:11,12,16)
 - b. One purpose of public worship is to edify (1 Cor. 14:5, 12, 17, 26)
- B. We plan to answer to basic questions about the church's responsibility in the area of worship.
 - 1. What is worship?
 - 2. What is "church worship?"
 - 3. What is the church's work in worship?

Discussion:

I. What Is "Worship?"

- A. It is found 115 times in O.T. And 73 times in the N.T. in its various forms.
 - 1. It is used of rendering specific acts (words or deeds) of devotion directed to deity.
 - 2. It is an act forbidden toward anyone or anything other than the Godhead. (Rom. 1:25; Acts 10:25-26; Col. 2:18; Rev. 19:10)
 - 3. It is a separate act from ordinary activities of life (Gen. 22:5; 24:48; 1 Sam. 1:19; John 4:20-24)
- B. It is not a synonym for "serve" or "obey"
 - 1. All worship is service and obedience, but not all obedience/service is worship.
 - 2. "Worship" and "serve" used as separate acts in many passages (Deut. 4:19; 8:19; 11:16; 30:17; 1 Kings 9:6; 2 Chron. 7:19; Jer. 13:10; 25:6; Dan 3:12, 14, 18, 28; Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8)
 - 3. We must obey parents, husbands, governments, masters – but must not worship them.
- C. It is not true that "all life" is worship.
 - 1. This error based on a perversion of Romans 12:1 (See NIV)
 - 2. The act of presenting the body to God as act of (service/worship) is a far cry from saying every act of the body is an act of worship.
 - 3. The object of this error is to equate all acts of a faithful Christian with worship – thus minimize the priority of public worship.

II. What Is "Church Worship?"

- A. It is those acts that fit the Biblical concept of worship that is done when the church is assembled.
- B. There are five acts that fits the idea of worship that were done in the assemblies of the N.T. churches.
 - 1. Singing unto God (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:15)
 - 2. Praying unto God (1 Cor. 14:15; Acts 12:5)
 - 3. Preaching/hearing of God's word are acts of glorifying God (Acts 20:7)
 - 4. Lord's supper is an act worship to the Lord (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:21)
 - 5. Giving is done unto the Lord (1 Cor. 16:2)

III. What Is the Church's Work in Worship?

- A. Local churches "come together" or assemble for worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:17-20; 14:23)
- B. Part of its work is provide the facilities for these assemblies and the worship activities.
 - 1. Place and utensils necessary for orderly assembly and proper frame of mind for worship.
 - 2. Even spiritual worship requires some physical aids – church should provide these.

Conclusion:

- A. The local church is to provide for scriptural public worship for its members.
- B. The local church may from its treasury provide the things needed for public worship.