



What Does Church Look Like?

21 June 2020

(Part 3)

Acts 2:42-47

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Matthew 26:26-29

Is Our Worship PROFOUND?

- (John 4:24) When Jesus, our LORD, said that we **must** worship God in spirit and truth, the word He used was one of PROFOUND worship demonstrated by prostrating oneself in complete humility.
 - Our English word “worship” **means** “to honor or show reverence (profound adoring awe respect) for a divine being or supernatural power; to regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, devotion”
- Worship is NOT what man has made it over the past 2000 years.
- Worship is what God said it is in the first century.
- Worship is something we gather together to DO - not to be entertained.
- Worship is something one must PREPARE for.
- Worship requires our full understanding and an engaged mind. To worship in spirit and truth one must come with a “readiness of mind.” (Acts 17:11)
 - ★ Remember Ecclesiastes 7:1-8 - we are come primarily to listen!
 - ★ Listening is a discipline learned and developed. In the culture we live many have not developed good listening skills.
- Two absolute requirements are necessary before coming to worship:
 - ❶ One must be in an intimate relationship (fellowship/koinonia) with God.
 - One must be “born-again”. (John 3:1-8)
 - One must be “walking” in the Light as He is in the Light. (1 John 1:6-7)
 - ❷ One must be in an intimate relationship (fellowship/koinonia) with his/her brothers and sisters. (Matthew 5:23-26)
 - Koinonia is required for worship to be acceptable to God.
 - God will not accept worship from those who do not take Him seriously and obey His Word.
 - God will not accept worship from those who are not in fellowship/koinonia with members of **His** Body.
 - Koinonia is something we DO to each other. (See handout)
- ★ GOD DEFINES HIS WORDS - NOT US!

What Would Christ Write in His Letter to Us?

- Would He find things to commend us?
- Would He find things to criticize us?
- Would He call us to repentance?
- So, it is wise for us to examine ourselves!
- BUT we must examine ourselves by Christ’s standard - the **written** Word of God - not man’s traditions, teachings, or customs.

What Does Church Look Like? (Acts 2:42-47)

- On His feast of Weeks (Pentecost), God gave His Son His Holy Spirit and His Son gave the Holy Spirit to His Church. And what did the Church **DO**:
 - ✓ They became students of God’s Word and His doctrine.
 - ✓ They fellowshiped together.
 - ✓ They celebrated their Lord regularly by reminding themselves of all that He had done for them - they broke bread together.
 - ✓ They prayed together.
 - ✓ They were filled with AWE.
 - ✓ They experienced the supernatural.
 - ✓ They cared for each other.
 - ✓ They made “every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit” by being of one accord.
 - ✓ They were filled with joy.
 - ✓ They worshiped together.
 - ✓ They grew together.

They Continued Steadfastly (v. 42)

- (v. 42) “**They**” - not some of them but “they”. “They” communicates that they did it together - NOT on their own.
- (v. 42) **Continuing steadfastly** (devoted) προσκατερέω

Priority Number One - DOCTRINE (Acts 2:42)

- Doctrine determines EVERYTHING we do.

They Continued Steadfastly in Fellowship

- κοινωνία koinonia {koy-nohn-ee-ah}
 - 1) fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse 1a) the share which one has in anything, participation
 - 2) to have in common with each other
- FELLOWSHIP (κοινωνία) “is the spiritual duty of believers to stimulate each other to holiness and faithfulness.”

- κοινωνία is not just coming to church on Sundays. It is being intimately involved in each others lives - physical & spiritual.
- **See handout “Koinonia Defined by GOD”**
- Christ died for the CHURCH – His Body - your brothers and sisters.
- To NOT be in intimate κοινωνία in a Bible-believing church is **SIN**.

They Continued Steadfast in Remembering (Acts 2:42)

- “in breaking bread” together. Here the breaking of bread would be them sharing in the LORD’s Supper as given to the apostles in the Passover dinner before Christ’s death.
- “breaking bread from house to house” in verse 46 is the practice of hospitality with each other.
- So, here, were the priorities of the first church:
 - ① Doctrine - doctrine laid the foundation for everything they would do as a “church”.
 - ② Fellowship/Koinonia - understanding that they were now a BODY - a FAMILY “koinoniaing” each other as doctrine dictated.
 - ③ Never forgetting God’s grace poured out upon them in saving them for their sins and gave them new life.

What Are We Never to Forget?

- ① What we were before Christ found us.
 - We were **dead** in sin. (Eph 2:1, 5; Col 2:13; 1 John 3:14)
 - We were **walked** according the ways of world rather than God’s ways. (Eph 2:2; Romans 12:2)
 - We **followed** the ways of Satan as he worked in us - we were his slaves. (Ephesians 2:2)
 - We **conducted** ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind. (Ephesians 2:3)
 - We were **enemies** of God. (Romans 5:10)
 - We were **without** any **ability** to save ourselves. (Rom 5:6; 3:10-18; Mat 19:25-26)
 - We were **blind** and **ignorant**. (Eph 4:18; 1 Corinthians 2:14)
 - We were without **hope**. (Ephesians 2:12)
 - We were without **God**. (Ephesians 2:12)
 - We were **by nature** children of **His wrath**. (Eph 2:3; John 3:26)
- ② What happened when Christ found us:
 - GOD sent His Son to seek, find, and save His people. (Matt 1:21; Luke 19:10; 15:4-7)
 - GOD saved us! **“BUT GOD . . .”**(Ephesians 2:4-8)
 - GOD saved us because of His great love and His abundant mercy toward us. (Eph 2:4-5; 1 Peter 1:3)

- We were **born again** and became children of God. (John 1:13; 3:1-8; James 1:18; 1 John 3:1)
- GOD **gave** us new life - eternal life. (Romans 6:23; John 10:27-28; 17:2; 1 John 5:11-12)
- GOD **re-created** us into new creatures with **new natures**. (2 Cor 5:17; 2 Peter 1:4)
- GOD **gave** us a **new heart** with His Law written on it. (Ezek 36:26-27; Hebrew 8:10; Jeremiah 31:33)
- GOD **gave** us His Spirit to cause us to walk in His ways. (Ezek 36:27; Galatians 5:22-23)
- GOD **enlightened** our understanding and we realized that God **chose** us before the beginning of time (Eph 1:4); that He loved(s) us with an **everlasting love** (Jeremiah 31:3) and that in His timing He **drew** us to Himself (John 6:44; 65; Psalm 65:4)
- GOD set us **free** from sin’s dominion over us. (Romans 6:14, 16-22)
- ③ ALL this because of a COVENANT God made with His Son before time began. God promised that if His Son would descend to the “lowest parts of the earth” for the people He gave Him then He promised that He would:
 - ① Write His Law on their minds - they would begin to understand the ways of God and know Him. (Psalm 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 2:14)
 - ② Write His Law on their hearts - they would love His Law (commandments) and desire to keep them. (Psalm 42:1-2; 63:1)
 - ③ Be their God. (Ephesians 2:12; **Psalm 144:15**)
 - ④ Make them HIS own special people. (1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:14; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
 - ⑤ Cause them to **know** Me. (John 17:3; Matthew 11:27)
 - ⑥ Be **merciful** to them because He sent His Son to propitiate His anger toward us! (1 John 4:10; Romans 3:24-25; Hebrews 2:17)
 - ⑦ **Remember** their sins no more. (Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 33:8)
- ★ **ALL this NOT because a *anything* we did but because of *everything* Christ did on our behalf!**
- ☆ **THIS IS AMAZING GRACE!**
- ④ Other things the Lord’s Supper reminds us:
 - Christ came to REDEEM us with His blood. Therefore, we are NOT my own. We have been PURCHASE and now belong to God body, soul, and spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Acts 20:28; Hebrews 9:12)
 - Therefore, whatever Christ **demand**s of us we will do motivated by love. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:1-3)
 - God promised to send His Messiah the first time and He came **just as** He said, and He promised that He will come again. (1 Cor 11:26; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16)