



What Does Church Look Like?

14 June 2020

(Part 2)

Acts 2:42-47

Amos 3:1-8

1 John 1:1-7

Did You Come Prepared to Worship? (Part 1)

- We have been chosen and saved to “proclaim His praises.” (1 Peter 2:9)
- Worship is not conforming to traditions, customs, and programs. (Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 15:7-9)
- Worship is an activity that requires determination of the will, with full understanding of the mind, and with a heart FULL of AWE. Worship is deliberate and intelligent.
- We are to worship God in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)
 - “must” - “an obligation”; “a necessity”; “the will of God”
 - “worship” - the word Jesus used was one of PROFOUND worship demonstrated by prostrating oneself in complete humility.
 - “spirit” - worship comes from within - from the heart. (Proverbs 4:23)
 - What kind of spirit does the God find acceptable?
 - ① Obedient (1 Samuel 15:22; Jeremiah 7:23; 11:7)
 - ② Humble (Micah 6:8; Isaiah 57:15; 66:2; James 4:6)
 - ③ Contrite (Isaiah 57:15; Psalm 34:18; 51:17; Matthew 5:3-4)
 - ★ To be filled with the zeal of the LORD in truth!
 - “truth” - all truth is determined by God. Truth is God’s standard. His Word is truth.
 - ① We must worship GOD as He has revealed Himself. Worshiping a god that we do not know is idolatry. Worshiping a god of our own imagination is idolatry. There can be no true worship with out knowledge of God. (Hosea 4:1-6; 6:6; Isaiah 1:3-4; Jer 4:22)
 - ② We must worship GOD as He has directed/commanded us.
 - ★ God’s word instructs us how we are to approach, with what attitude to approach and, even, how we are to dress!
 - ★ Ignoring God’s **written** instructions is arrogance. It is saying, “I will decide how I want to approach and worship God.”
- Worship requires an engaged mind. To worship in spirit and truth one must come with a “readiness of mind.” (Acts 17:11)

→ Consider God’s instructions in Ecclesiastes 5:1-7:

- ① (v. 1) Walk prudently in the house of God.
- ② (v. 1) Draw near to hear rather than give sacrifices of fools. Know what you are doing.
 - ★ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.” (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22)
 - ★ Listening is a discipline learned and developed. In the culture we live many have not developed good listening skills.
- ③ (vv. 2, 4-6) Be very careful what you say with your mouth. God will hold you accountable of everything you say.
- ④ (vv. 2, 7) Let your words be few. Come to hear rather than speak.
- ⑤ (v. 7) Fear God. The Holy Spirit uses the IMPERATIVE mood. (Psalm 89:7; Jer 5:22; 10:7; Malachi 1:11, 14; **Hebrews 12:28-29**)

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 fellowshipped 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) προσκαρτερέω

Meaning:

- 1) to adhere to one, be his adherent, to be devoted or constant to one
- 2) to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unremitting care to a thing
- 3) to continue all the time in a place
- 4) to persevere and not to faint
- 5) to be in constant readiness for one, wait on constantly

Priority Number One - DOCTRINE (Acts 2:42)

- Christians/disciples continue steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine.
- The apostle's doctrine is the **written** Word of God.
- As new creatures, children of God, and disciples of Christ they live their lives in accordance with the Father's instructions.
- This was the top priority because doctrine determines conduct.
- Doctrine is the foundation for all that we do.
- Many say, "The Bible is our final authority for all that we believe and do", but are either ignorant of what the Bible says or refuse to submit to its **written** Word.
- A disciple desires to imitate his/her Master who came and lived His life strictly according to God's will.

They Continued Steadfastly in Fellowship

- Nature determines four things:
 - ① APPETITE - Christians hunger for righteousness (Matt 5:6); they craved the pure milk of Scripture (1 Peter 2:2); their food is doing the will of God (John 4:24). See Hebrews 5:14; **Matthew 4:4**.
 - ② BEHAVIOUR - Christians practice righteousness. (1 John 2:29-3:10)
 - ③ ENVIRONMENT - Christians have been delivered out of darkness and now dwell in the light. (1 John 1:7-8; John 3:19-21; 12:46; Eph 5:18)
 - ④ ASSOCIATION (FELLOWSHIP) - Christians "flock together" with like kind. (2 Cor 6:14-18; 1 Cor 15:33; Psalm 1:1; James 4:4; 1 Peter 2:9)
- 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
- What does it mean when the Spirit says that they continued steadfastly in fellowship?
- **FIRST**, one must be in κοινωνία with God. This is not just believing in God. To be in fellowship with God . . .
 - ① There must be RECONCILIATION. We are born enemies of God (Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:21). One must be "born again" before he/she can have fellowship with God.

- ② There must be a common NATURE. "Light has no communion (κοινωνία) with darkness". (2 Cor 6:14; 2 Peter 1:4; cf. Eph 2:3)
- ③ There must be a SURRENDERED WILL. (Matthew 26:42; Psalm 40:6; 119:24, 47, 92). It is being YOKED with Christ and learning from Him. (Matthew 11:29-30)
- ④ There must be AGREEMENT with GOD. (Amos 3:3)
- ⑤ There must be WALKING in the LIGHT (His **written** Word) just as He is in the light. (Psalm 119:105; **43:3**; **Proverbs 6:23**)

- **WARNING: If you do not have** κοινωνία with God you cannot have κοινωνία with the members of His Body. If you are walking in YOUR LIGHT and not HIS - your sins are not forgiven! (1 John 1:7-9)
- **SECOND:** There must be fellowship (κοινωνία) with our brothers and sisters.
- 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.
 - ★ It is being transparent with a willingness to deny self to minister to my brothers and sisters and be willing to be served by my brothers and sisters.
 - ★ God does not leave the definition of fellowship to each of us as individuals. He defines what κοινωνία is to look like in His Church. **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**.
 - Hebrews 10:24-25 commands us to **PROVOKE** each other unto good works and to MEET together regularly.
 - ★ **WARNING:** The Holy Spirit moved the writer to write this right before He gave His fifth and final warning – **APOSTASY**. (Heb 10:26-27)
 - Read also Matt 24:10; 1 Tim 4:1-2; 2 Thess 2:3.
 - We are ALL members of His body and **NEED** each other. (See Romans 12:4-5)
- Our generation has LOST the true idea of "κοινωνία."
- The Spirit told us that in the latter days people would be SELF-CENTERED and the concept of COMMUNITY would be lost – see 2 Timothy 3:1-5.
- **WARNING: Not to be in** κοινωνία with your brothers and sisters excludes you from κοινωνία with God.

WITHOUT FELLOWSHIP THERE CAN BE NO GROWTH!