

OUR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Introduction

- 1) Our relationship with God and those in Christ is a vital subject to consider
- 2) We are created beings that are to **worship** the Creator (Psa. 95:6-7)
- 3) Brethren in Christ enjoy **fellowship** in God's family (Phil. 1:3-5)
- 4) We must understand what the Bible teaches about worship and fellowship

I) **The Necessity of Worship**

- A) "Worship" = reverence, adoration, obeisance; man is to worship God (Matt. 4:10)
- B) Acts of faith in accordance with God's instructions (Gen. 22:5)
- C) Fulfilled during congregational assembly of Christians (Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Cor. 11:18)
 - 1) Some acts of worship can be done by individuals at other times (Acts 16:25)
 - 2) There are definitive times to gather for worship that are in addition to our daily service to God (Acts 20:7)

II) **Worship in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24)**

- A) Jesus contrasts past practices with a change that was taking place (Jn. 4:19-23)
- B) Jesus is not speaking simply of right attitude and right manner, for this has *always* been expected by God (cf. Josh. 24:14; 1 Sam. 12:24)
- C) There was to be a **change** in the *nature of worship* (spiritual – less emphasis on physical ordinances) and the *revealed pattern* (truth as revealed in Christ, not OT Law)

III) **Acts of Worship**

- A) Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:16; 11:20)
- B) Preaching/Teaching (Acts 20:7, 11)
- C) Giving (1 Cor. 16:2)
- D) Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
- E) Prayer (1 Cor. 14:15-16)
- F) All things are to be done decently, orderly, and reverently (1 Cor. 14:40)
 - 1) Not a time for confusion, social activities, daydreaming, comedy, etc.

IV) **Fellowship**

- A) Scriptural worship is an expression of fellowship with God and one another (1 Cor. 10:16-17)
 - 1) No fellowship with God if our worship is not according to His will (Matt. 15:8-9)
- B) **Fellowship** = spiritual relationship in which sharing and joint-participation is possible (congregation – 1 Cor. 1:10; individuals – Gal. 2:9)

V) **Fellowship with God and Brethren**

- A) Fellowship with God is based on loving Christ and keeping His commandments (Jn. 14:15, 21-24; 1 Jn. 1:1-7; 2:5-6)
- B) Fellowship with one another is based on our common fellowship with God (1 Cor. 1:9-10)
- C) Can be no spiritual relationship where there is no common fellowship with God in the belief and obedience of His word (2 Jn. 9-11)
 - 1) Some differences will not affect spiritual fellowship and some will (Rom. 14:1; 16:17)
 - 2) A serious study of God's word must be done to discern the perimeters of fellowship

Conclusion

Those who are in fellowship with God have the obligation and privilege to worship Him as He has instructed "*in spirit and truth*" (Jn. 4:24). Let us strive to walk *together* in *truth* and *love* as children of God, bearing the *fruit of the Spirit* (Gal. 5:22-23), having *no fellowship* with the *unfruitful works of darkness* (Eph. 5:1-11). Are you in fellowship with God through Jesus?