

CORPORATE WORSHIP: WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Psalm 34:1-3

(1) I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth. (2) My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. (3) O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

Introduction

In today's busy world, with many and varied options and opportunities, it is always a good thing to review why we come together, in one accord, to worship our great God. Every aspect of our post-modern and post-pandemic society is vying for our time and attention. On second Sundays, we usually gear our sermons to the youth. Therefore, it is fitting and proper to reinforce the importance of corporate worship, so, the generations following us can appreciate this important part of the Christian life.

While our entire lives should be one big act of worship and we worship privately and with our immediate families, there is still something unique about corporate worship. It can never be duplicated in any other setting. Simply put: it is special – very special.

Let's take a quick in-depth look at corporate worship. For the science teachers we will go to the spiritual laboratory and dissect this living organism. We promise not to kill it. For the engineers, we are going to do some reverse engineering.

Exposition

1. The Designated Period Of Worship.

(The Seventh Day Is A Memorial To Creation.)

(The First Day Is A Memorial To The Resurrection.)

2. The Designated Place Of Worship.

(The Physical Sanctuary.)

(The Virtual Sanctuary.)

(The Sanctified Heart Is The Real Sanctuary.)

3. The Designated Purpose and the Person of Worship.

(Praise Father, Son, And Holy Ghost.)

(Adoration, Appreciation, and Jubilation.)

4. The Designated People Of Worship.

(The Breathing Blood-Bought Saints Of God.)

(Please Don't Let A Rock Do Your Job.)

(Corporate Worship Is One Of The Few Things In Our Culture That Is Non-Competitive.)

5. The Designated Byproduct Of Worship.

(Worship Has A Boomerang Effect.)

(We Start By Giving To God And Then He Gives To Us.)

(Comfort, Joy, Peace, Healing, Escape From Fear, Release From Worry, Empowerment)

Closing Thoughts

If the ancient Jews found joy and meaning in worshipping God, how much more should those of us who have a higher revelation through Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the complete Bible?

Worship is the starting point of a church's ministry. When a church prays and worships God, amazing things happen.

Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

Related Scriptures

Psalm 95:1-6; Psalm 122:1; Hebrews 10:25.

End Notes:

1. Worship is a deep and yet broad topic. This is the best definition I have found. Worship is an adoring, appreciative encounter with God. Our English word is related to weighing precious metals or other items to determine the value or worth. So, the question that presents itself to each of us: What is God's worth to you? The greater His worth is to you, the more fervent is your worship.
2. There are several words in the Old Testament and in the New Testament that can be translated as worship. One Hebrew word is related to the word which can be translated as swim. The idea is that just as a swimmer is completely immersed in the water as he/she swims, so we are completely immersed in God's presence when we worship in spirit and in truth.
3. The first use of a word that can be translated as worship was used by Abraham when he was proceeding to put his son, Isaac on the altar. This is found in Genesis 22:5. The Hebrew word is related to the idea of giving something up and also killing or slaughtering an animal. Think about it. When we worship, we do give up something. We give up our time and attention in appreciation to God. We even give up our money. Kill is a harsh word, but in worship we kill fleshy ideas, personal agendas, and unholy thoughts.
4. The word corporate was first used by the church. Corporate worship and corporate prayer were used long before the business community used it. Actually, they did not have a word to describe the new business structure so they used the word of the church and called it a corporation.
5. Just think about it. Just about everything in our culture is competitive. All sports are: football, basketball, baseball, Olympics, and etc. Don't forget spelling bees, the battle of the bands, auditioning for a community choir, competing for valedictorian, debates, beauty contests, competing for first chair in the orchestra or concert band, and cook offs. All businesses, whether large or small, have competitors. You have to compete to be accepted by the college of your choice.

Some psychologists and anthropologists say we are wired for competition. We have a genetic craving for it, and sports and other competitive endeavors satisfy this craving. This explains why we enjoy sports so much. We enjoy participating in them and watching them. Competition actually floods our brains with the "happy hormones." We crave these happy bio-chemicals – dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, and endorphins. However, this craving for competition, if unchecked, can get out of hand and create

sibling rivalry, even wars and other international conflicts. This “happy competition” produces “happy stress.” Happy stress is still stress, and it can take its toll on us.

In the church, especially in corporate worship, there should be no competition - at least no overt competition. This is what Paul was referring to in Romans 12:4-8, 1st Corinthians Chapter 12, and Galatians 3:28. If competition does sneak in, we should eradicate it immediately. This is the gist of 1st Corinthian 13:1-13. In the church, we do not compete with each other. We complement each other. The church is an oasis in the desert of competition. Drink water freely from it and then go out and compete fairly. Let your light shine as you compete honorably in the world. Okay, Antioch, I know I am preaching to the choir and the ushers.

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