

“THE SACRAMENT THAT DEFINES CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP”

I Corinthians 11:17-34

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. The “worship” service we are all commanded to attend: (*Heb. 10:25*)
 - 1. “Rightly dividing the Word” in defining worship: (*II Tim. 2:15*) (*See back*)
 - 2. How carnality attacks the “heart of worship” – getting vs. giving:
- B. Three carnal disorders in congregational worship at Corinth:
 - 1. Their refusal to “bow” (submission): *11:2-16*
 - 2. Their refusal to “give” (spectators vs. generous participants):
 - 3. Their refusal to promptly “obey” (self-analysis):
- C. Congregational worship desegregated with the Lord’s Supper: *vv. 12-22*
 - 1.
 - 2.

II. CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP CHRIST’S WAY:

- A. The limited **participants**: *vv. 2, 24-25, 33*
 - 1.
 - 2.
- B. The **purpose** of this imperative command: *vv. 23-26*
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- C. The **preparation** prior to observing this worshipful ordinance: *vv. 27-32*
 - 1. Determining the basis of your personal worship:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - 2. Discovering the consequences of carnal, congregational worship:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- D. The **predicament** of carnal worship: *vv. 33-34 (I Cor. 9:19-23; 10:33-11:1; Rom. 11:14)*
 - 1.
 - 2.

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming “people of the Word” in principle AND in practice)

- A.
- B.
- C.

WORSHIP

Worship – (proskuneo) – “to kiss toward” conveying the idea of showing reverence or surrendering obeisance. It is a subjective feeling of awe, reverent humility, and respect as well as an objective activity of bowing, praising, prioritizing, and serving in prompt obedience. It is defined simply in Isaiah 46:6b as “they fall down, yea, they worship”. It rarely in Scripture has anything to do with music evidenced by a journey through any Bible concordance. Our religious community has been enticed to redefine this Biblical term to make it less convicting and more relationally palatable to our carnal culture.

“From ‘shachah’ in the Hebrew Old Testament to ‘proskuneo’ in the Greek New Testament, worship is ALWAYS bowing physically or internally in submission to Jesus Christ. A heart that is not bowing in submission, is not worshipping.” Ron Owen (See Gen. 18:2; Mt. 2:11; 4:9; 28:9)

“True worship examines us deeply; our motives and our values are scrutinized by God. In worship, God is calling us to wholeness. But first He must reveal our brokenness and blemishes. He is calling us to spiritual health, but first He must expose our wounds, bruises, and putrefying sores, and we cannot ask for a second opinion.” W. Wiersbe

“No worship is wholly pleasing to God until there is nothing knowingly in me displeasing to God.”
A.W. Tozer

The basic elements of worship as specifically stated in Mt. 2 with the group of wise men, focus on three vital components:

1. **Bowing** to display complete submission to authority:
2. **Giving** generously at the expense of **getting**: gold – kingship, frankincense – fragrance of all known sin confessed, myrrh – the humbling and expensive death penalty paid for my sin debt:
3. Prompt **obedience** - wise men and then Joseph: (Jn. 10:27)

PRAISE

Biblical praise is an outward, vocal, and physical expression of deep admiration, thanksgiving, and honor for God's inherent worthiness and mighty deeds, using words and singing stemming from a heartfelt acknowledgement of His goodness, leading to testimony and magnifying His name. It is not just a feeling but a commanded action, often described by Hebrew words like **halal** (to shine, boast), **zamar** (to sing), and **yadah** (to give thanks, confess) by declaring God's glory to others.

There are two aspects of praise that are obvious in Scripture. **First** is reciting God's attributes. That was the typical means of praise in the Old Testament. For example, Psalms 104:1-2 says, “Bless the Lord, O my soul! O my God, thou art great; Thou art clothed with splendor and majesty, covering Thyself with light as with a cloak”. The **second** aspect of praise is reciting God's works. Psalms 107:21-22 says, “Let them give thanks to the Lord for His loving-kindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men! Let them also offer **sacrifices of thanksgiving**, and tell of His works with joyful singing.” Praise from the heart includes honoring Him for who He is and what He has done on behalf of His people. This is the acceptable spiritual pattern of praise to your loving Lord. **You can readily praise Christ without worshipping Him, since the words “worship” and “praise” are two separate thoughts and NOT implied synonyms.**

SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.