



PART 2:  
BIBLICAL CORPORATE WORSHIP

# Spirit and Truth

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21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” 25 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

JOHN 4:21-26

# Criteria For Worship

## SPIRIT AND TRUTH

**Spirit:** Worship requires regeneration. Your spirit must be alive to worship God (before this all our righteous acts are filthy rags. Whatever is not done in faith is sin).

**Truth:** God must be worshiped as He is, not as you imagine Him to be. God tells us Who He is and how He is to be worshipped.



# *Coram Deo*

## "BEFORE THE FACE OF GOD"

*For you have delivered my soul from death,  
yes, my feet from falling,  
that I may walk before God  
in the light of life.*

*-Psalm 56:13*

The Latin Vulgate version of this Psalm uses the phrase "*Coram Deo*" to refer to living in the presence of God. The implication is that every part of life is to be lived for God and in His view.

According to R. C. Sproul, the thrust of the of *Coram Deo* is to "live one's entire life in the presence of God, under the authority of God, to the glory of God".

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<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/what-does-coram-deo-mean>



# Ways to Worship

## WORK

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. -Col. 3:23-24

## PRAYER

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. -Phil. 4:6

## GIVING

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. -2 Cor. 9:7

## STUDY

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. -Joshua 1:8a

## SINGING

Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds! -Psalm 9:11

## EVANGELISM

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. -Matthew 28:19

## SERVING

Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! -Psalm 100:2

## ORDINANCES

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." -1 Cor. 11:25



## **LORD'S DAY GATHERING**

We are commanded to gather together regularly to worship God and edify one another (Hebrews 10:23-25)

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## **FAMILY WORSHIP**

Parents are commanded to train up their children in the faith (Deut. 6:7, Prov. 22:6, Eph. 6:4)

# Worship



## **INDIVIDUAL WORSHIP**

We are commanded to honor Christ in our hearts, serving him in all that we do (1 Peter 3:15, Col. 2:23-34)

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## **DISCIPLESHIP**

We are commanded to make disciples of all nations. We evangelize and discipl for God's Glory (Mat. 28:19-20)

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.....But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 PETER 2:4-5,9



# Principle 1:

## **THE PRIESTHOOD (AND "TEMPLEHOOD") OF ALL BELIEVERS**

Believers are individually and corporately the temple of the Holy Spirit. He indwells each believer, and as "living stones" we are together the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

Further, each believer is to minister as a priest, offering sacrifices of praise, taking the Gospel of the atonement to the people, and praying to God on behalf of the people.

As a believer, you are both a priest and a part of the temple, your presence in the assembly is essential. Thus, God's command to gather must not be ignored.



# What are our Sacrifices?

## OURSELVES

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

*-Romans 12:1*

(Note: This includes edifying other believers.)

## OUR PRAISES

*Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name*

*-Hebrews 13:15*

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

HEBREWS 10:19-25



# Biblical Principles for Corporate Worship

# Corporate Worship is Commmanded

## HEBREWS 10:23-25

*23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

## 1 PETER 2:5

*you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

## COLOSSIANS 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

## DEUTERONOMY 31:12-13

*Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."*

## PSALM 50:5

*"Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"*

## 1 CORINTHIANS 5:4-5

*4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.*

## MATTHEW 18:20

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."*



42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

ACTS 2:42-47

# The Means of Grace

"In His grace and in His wisdom, God has provided ways by which we can regularly have our faith in His promises fortified. Historically, we have referred to these ways of strengthening our faith as the ordinary means of grace. Prayer, the preaching of the Word, and the sacraments are not elaborate or fancy methods of giving us what we need to confirm our trust in Christ. To an outside observer, they do not seem special at all. After all, they make use of rather common things such as human speech, bread, wine, and water. But by faith and the work of the Spirit, these common elements are used to do an uncommon work — the confirmation of our trust in Jesus and the strengthening of our wills to flee from sin and rest in Christ alone."

## **PRAYER**

James 5:16-18 describes prayer and a powerful act of believers which accomplishes great things by God's work. Further, it is another means whereby we commune with God and stand in unity with believers.

## **PREACHING THE WORD**

Isaiah 55:10-11 describes the teaching of the Word of God like rain that waters the earth and makes things grow. Teaching the Word always accomplishes God's desire and is never without fruit.

## **ORDINANCES (BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER)**

1 Corinthians 10:16 shows that communion is a participation in the body and blood of Christ. It is not an empty ritual. It brings glory to God and unity for the believers. Baptism is likewise an identification with Christ, having profound importance for believers.



# Heidelberg Catechism

## ON THE MEANS OF GRACE

**Question 65.** Since then we are made partakers of Christ and all his benefits by faith only, whence does this faith proceed?

**Answer:** From the Holy Ghost, who works faith in our hearts by the preaching of the gospel, and confirms it by the use of the sacraments.

**Question 66.** What are the sacraments?

**Answer:** The sacraments are holy visible signs and seals, appointed of God for this end, that by the use thereof, he may the more fully declare and seal to us the promise of the gospel, viz., that he grants us freely the remission of sin, and life eternal, for the sake of that one sacrifice of Christ, accomplished on the cross.



# Principle 2:

## **WORSHIP SHOULD BE DONE IN UNITY**

*But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part...-1 Corinthians 11:17-18*

*I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.-1 Corinthians 1:10*

*Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.-Philippians 2:2*

*Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.-1 Peter 3:8*





# Principle 3:

**WORSHIP SHOULD BE DONE DECENTLY AND  
IN ORDER FOR BUILDING UP BELIEVERS**

*What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up...(instructions for order)...For God is not a God of confusion but of peace....(more instructions for order)...But all things should be done decently and in order.-**1 Corinthians 14:26,33,40***

# Philosophies of Worship



## SYNCHRETISM

Worship that disobeys God's commands for worship by implementing pagan practices or idolatry. This is anti-biblical, even demonic worship.



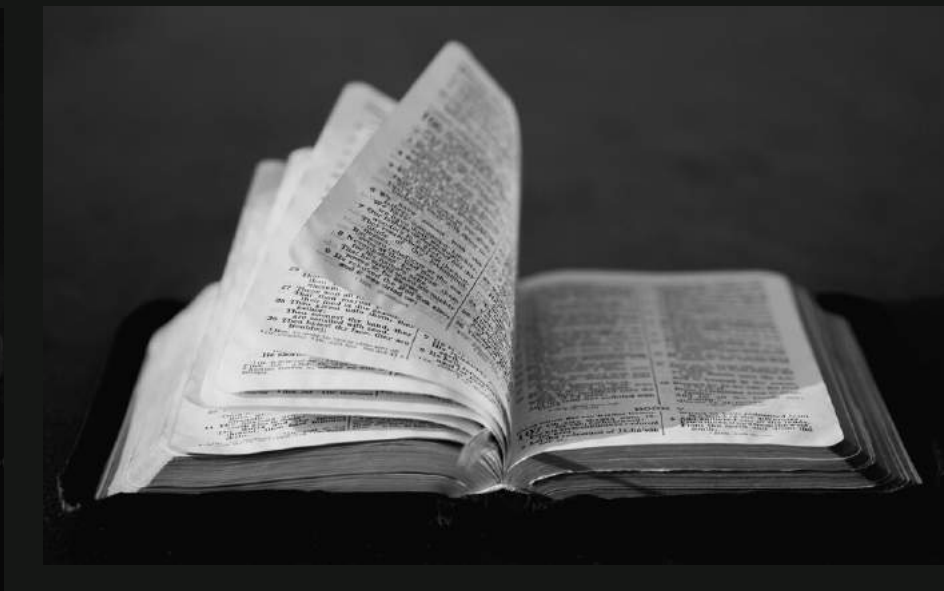
## UNPRINCIPLED

Worship that ignores God's commands for worship, involves sinful practices, or is otherwise disordered. This is unbiblical worship.



## NORMATIVE PRINCIPLE

Worship that seeks to be biblical but allows for practices that are not mentioned in Scripture if they do not contradict Scripture.



## REGULATIVE PRINCIPLE

Worship that seeks to obey God's commands without adding anything not specifically commanded in Scripture, even if it does not contradict. (Note: Formal is not always regulative.)

**Note: Syncretism (mixing pagan practices with Christianity) could be a fourth category.**

A black and white photograph showing a person's hands clasped in prayer over an open Bible. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The Bible is open, and the text on the pages is visible, though slightly blurred. The background is dark, making the hands and the Bible stand out.

# Principle 4:

## EVERYTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO EDIFY

What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

**-1 Corinthians 14:26**

A black and white photograph showing a person's hands clasped in prayer over an open Bible. The hands are positioned in the center-left of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The Bible is open, showing text on both pages, and is resting on a dark surface. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the hands and the pages of the book.

# Principle 5:

## TAKE COMMUNION WITH CONSIDERATION

27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. 32 Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world. 33 So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. **1 Corinthians 11:33**

# Elements of Corporate Worship:

- Prayer
- Giving
- Fellowship
- Teaching
- Singing
- Lord's Supper
- Baptism

Everything must be done for God's glory and the building up of believers. Spiritual Gifts are employed to these ends.



# Restoration Corporate Worship:

- Fellowship (Encouraging one another)
- Opening Prayer (Seeking God's
- Catechism (New City)
- Singing (Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs)
- Corporate Prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication)
- Teaching (Chapter-by-chapter Bible Study)
- Gospel Proclamation (Rotating presenters)
- Lord's Supper (Communion)
- Baptism (When a new believer)
- Giving (Online or in-person)



12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

COLOSSIANS 3:14-17