

The Worship of the Church

New Testament Church
Studies



Worship of the Church

- **Sunday** (Acts 2:1–Pentecost on Sunday; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:1–2; Rev 1:10)
- **Lord’s Supper** (Matt 26:26–29; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor 11:17 – 34)
- **Singing** (1 Cor 14:15; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16)
- **Prayer** (1 Cor 14:15; 1 Tim 2:1–2, 8)
- **Giving** (1 Cor 16:1–2; 2 Cor 9:6–8)
- **Scripture Reading, Teaching, Preaching** (1 Tim 4:13)

Sunday (The First Day of the Week)

- **Sunday** (*Acts 2:1–Pentecost on Sunday; Acts 20:7–Communion on Sunday; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2– Giving on Sunday; Revelation 1:10–the Lord’s Day*)
- **Romans 1:4** and was **declared to be the Son of God** in power according to the Spirit of holiness **by his resurrection from the dead**, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **Romans 14:9** For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Sunday (The First Day of the Week)

- We worship on the first day of the week because our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Sunday
- (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1, 2; Luke 24:1, and John 20:1).

Sunday (The First Day of the Week)

- **Matthew 28:1** Now after the Sabbath, toward **the dawn of the first day of the week**, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.
- **Mark 16:1** **When the Sabbath was past**, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.
- **Mark 16:2** And very early on **the first day of the week**, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

Sunday (The First Day of the Week)

- **Luke 24:1** But on **the first day of the week**, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.
- **John 20:1** Now on **the first day of the week** Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

Sunday (The First Day of the Week)

- **John 20:19** On the evening of that day, **the first day of the week**, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
- **John 20:26** **Eight days later**, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

Sunday (The First Day of the Week)

- **Revelation 1:10** I was in the Spirit on **the Lord's day**, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.
- The Lord's Day = First Day of the Week (Sunday)

Sunday (The First Day of the Week)

- **Acts 2:1** When the day of **Pentecost** arrived, they were all together in one place.
- Pentecost was on a Sunday
- See Leviticus 23:15–16

Sunday (The First Day of the Week)

- **Acts 2:42** And they devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and the **prayers**.
- Pentecost, which always fell on Sunday, the disciples are gathered together and the church of Christ is established.
- They observed the Lord's Supper. Remember they were commanded to teach what Jesus had taught them. They were not making it up as they went along.

Sunday (The First Day of the Week)

- **Acts 20:7** On the **first day of the week**, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.
- Notice that on the **first day of the week** the disciples came together for an express purpose – to break bread (to partake of the Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day).

Sunday (The First Day of the Week)

- **1 Corinthians 16:1** Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.
- **1 Corinthians 16:2** On the **first day of every week**, each of you is to **put something aside** and **store it up**, **as he may prosper**, **so that there will be no collecting when I come**.
- **1 Corinthians 16:3** And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter **to carry your gift to Jerusalem**.

When You Come Together

- **1 Corinthians 11:17** 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.
- **1 Corinthians 11:18** 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,

When You Come Together

- **1 Corinthians 11:20** **When you come together**, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat.
- **1 Corinthians 11:33** So then, my brothers, **when you come together** to eat, wait for one another—
- **1 Corinthians 11:34** if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that **when you come together** it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

When You Come Together

- **1 Corinthians 11:23** If, therefore, the **whole church comes together** and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?
- **1 Corinthians 11:26** 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.

When You Come Together

- **1 Corinthians 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.

Not Forsaking the Assembly

- **Hebrews 11:24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
- **Hebrews 11:25** **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Sabbath vs. Sunday

- The Sabbath = Day of Rest (Exodus 20:8–11; Deuteronomy 5:12–15)
- Sunday = Day of Meeting (Assembling) Together
- Some Jewish Christians still observed the Sabbath
- Gentile Christians did not observe the Sabbath
- **Romans 14:5** One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

The Lord's Supper and Lord's Day

- The Lord's supper (1 Corinthians 11:20) and the Lord's day (Revelation 1:10) go together -

Proper Worship ...

- **John 4:23** 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.
- **John 4:24** **God is spirit**, and those who worship him **must worship** in **spirit** and **truth**.

Proper Worship ...

- **God is the Subject of Worship** – Meaning in worship we should be talking about God.
- **In Spirit** – Meaning we should worship God with the right attitude, that is, sincerely.
- **In Truth** – Meaning we should worship God the way that He as indicated in His Word.

The Purpose of Worship ...

- The purpose of worship is to glorify God in all that is said and all that is done.
- Ephesians 3:21 **to him be glory in the church** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Purpose of Worship ...

- The purpose of worship is to edify the body of Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 14:26** 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.**

Object of Worship

- Revelation 4:11 “**Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.**”
- Revelation 5:12 saying with a loud voice, “**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing**”

To Obey is Better Than Sacrifice

- **1 Samuel 15:22** Samuel asked Saul, “And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, and to listen than the fat of rams.”

To Obey is Better Than Sacrifice

- What was Samuel saying? We cannot give God what we want to give Him. We must only give Him what He has commanded in relation to worship to Him. It may sound good and feel good to us, but we are not the objects of worship, God is. We do not tell God how we are going to worship Him. God is the one who instructs man how He wants to be worshipped. Therefore, we should not presume that God is pleased when we worship Him in a manner in which He has not stated in His Word.

God Must Be Respected

- Many consider God to be just another person like themselves. They fail to give God the respect that He requires.
- God declared through the Psalmist, “These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you” (Psalm 50:21).

Christians as Priests

- 1 Peter 2:5, 9
- Revelation 1:6
- Hebrews 13:15, 16
- Hebrews 12:28
- Christians offer “spiritual” sacrifices.
- Christians offer the “sacrifice of praise” and “fruit of lips” instead of animals and produce from the ground

Christians as Priests

- **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.**
- **1 Peter 2:9** 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.

Christians as Priests

- **Revelation 1:6** and made us a kingdom, **priests to his God and Father**, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Christians as Priests

- **Hebrews 12:28** Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus **let us offer to God acceptable worship**, with reverence and awe,

Christians as Priests

- **Hebrews 13:15** 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 13:16** Do not neglect to **do good** and to **share what you have**, for **such sacrifices are pleasing to God**.

Christians as Priests

- **Philippians 4:18** **I have received full payment**, and more. **I am well supplied**, having received from Epaphroditus **the gifts you sent**, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

First Day of Worship

- **Acts 2:42** And they devoted themselves to **the apostles' teaching** and **the fellowship**, to **the breaking of bread** and **the prayers**.

Scripture Reading, Teaching, Preaching

- **Scripture Reading, Teaching, Preaching** (1 Timothy 4:13; Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27)

Public Reading of Scripture

- **1 Timothy 4:13** Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.
- **Colossians 4:16** And when this letter has been read among you, **have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans**; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:27** I put you under oath before the Lord to **have this letter read to all the brothers**.

Delivering and Receiving the Word

- Colossians 1:28 Him we **proclaim**, **warning everyone** and **teaching everyone** with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Teaching in the Assembly

- **1 Corinthians 14:3** On the other hand, **the one who prophesies speaks to people for their** upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.
- **1 Corinthians 14:4** The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but **the one who prophesies builds up the church.**

Teaching in the Assembly

- **1 Corinthians 14:5** Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so **that the church may be built up.**
- **1 Corinthians 14:6** Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, **how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?**

Giving

- **Giving** (1 Corinthians 16:1–3; 2 Corinthians 9:6–8; Acts 4:34–35; 11:29–30)

Give Purposefully

- **2 Corinthians 9:6** The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
- **2 Corinthians 9:7** **Each one must give as he has decided in his heart**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- **2 Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Giving to the Needy

- **Acts 4:34** There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold
- **Acts 4:35** and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Giving to the Needy

- **Acts 11:29** So the **disciples determined**, everyone according to his **ability**, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.
- **Acts 11:30** And they did so, **sending it to the elders** by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Giving to Help the Needy

- **Romans 15:25** At present, however, **I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints.**
- **Romans 15:26** For Macedonia and Achaia **have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.**

Giving to Help the Needy

- **Romans 15:27** For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. **For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.**
- **Romans 15:28** **When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected,** I will leave for Spain by way of you.

Giving to Help the Needy

- **2 Corinthians 8:1** We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,
- **2 Corinthians 8:2** for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.

Giving to Help the Needy

- **2 Corinthians 8:3** **For they gave according to their means**, as I can testify, **and beyond their means**, of their own accord,
- **2 Corinthians 8:4** begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—

Giving to Help the Needy

- **2 Corinthians 8:5** and this, not as we expected, but **they gave themselves first to the Lord** and then by the will of God to us.
- **2 Corinthians 8:6** Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace.

Giving to Help the Needy

- **Romans 12:13** **Contribute to the needs of the saints** and seek to show hospitality.
- **Philippians 4:15** And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, **no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.**

Giving to Support the Preaching and Teaching of the Word

- **1 Corinthians 9:3** This is my defense to those who would examine me.
- **1 Corinthians 9:4** **Do we not have the right to eat and drink?**
- **1 Corinthians 9:5** **Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife**, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

Giving to Support the Preaching and Teaching of the Word

- 1 Corinthians 9:6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?
- 1 Corinthians 9:7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

Giving to Support the Preaching and Teaching of the Word

- **1 Corinthians 9:8** Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same?
- **1 Corinthians 9:9** For it is written in the Law of Moses, “**You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.**” Is it for oxen that God is concerned?
- **1 Corinthians 9:10** Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop.

Giving to Support the Preaching and Teaching of the Word

- **1 Corinthians 9:11** **If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?**
- **1 Corinthians 9:12** If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

Giving to Support the Preaching and Teaching of the Word

- **1 Corinthians 9:13** Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings?
- **1 Corinthians 9:14** In the same way, **the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.**

Lord's Supper

- **Lord's Supper** (Matthew 26:26–29; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34)

Lord's Supper

- **Matthew 26:26** Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “**Take, eat; this is my body.**”
- **Matthew 26:27** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “**Drink of it, all of you,**
- **Matthew 26:28** for this is my **blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness of sins.**
- **Matthew 26:29** I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when **I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.**”

Lord's Supper

- **Acts 2:42** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to **the breaking of bread** and the prayers.
- **Acts 20:7** On **the first day of the week**, when **we were gathered together to break bread**, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

Lord's Supper

- **1 Corinthians 11:26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**
- **1 Corinthians 11:27** Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.

Lord's Supper

- **1 Corinthians 11:28** **Let a person examine himself**, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
- **1 Corinthians 11:29** For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

Prayer

- **Prayer** (1 Corinthians 14:15; 1 Timothy 2:1–2, 8)

Prayer

- **1 Corinthians 14:15** What am I to do? **I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also**; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.
- **1 Corinthians 14:16** Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, **how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?**

Prayer

- **1 Timothy 2:1** First of all, then, **I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings** be made for all people,
- **1 Timothy 2:2** for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.
- **1 Timothy 2:8** **I desire then that in every place the men should pray,** lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

Prayer

- Praise to God
- Confession (of faith or of sin)
- Thanksgiving (Thankfulness)
- Intercessions
- Supplication (petitions made to God – requests to God)

Singing

- **Singing** (1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16)
- Singing is meant to glorify God and edify the congregation –

Singing

- **1 Corinthians 14:15** What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; **I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.**

Singing

- **Ephesians 5:19** **addressing one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart**,
- **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.**

Singing

- **Hebrews 13:15** Through him then **let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.
- **Romans 15:6** that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Musical Instruments

- Musical instruments are never found in the New Testament in a context of worship to God.

Conclusion

- The Bible gives us the directives needed to worship God acceptably. God has not left us out in the dark concerning this. He has laid out in His Word the way in which He chooses, yea I say, commands to be worshipped.