**Identifying the One Church (5) – Worship**

**Introduction**

1. **Psalm 2:7-12** (after **vv. 1-6** – Attempt to destroy the Anointed one.) – The Messiah was given a kingdom (His church), and is worthy to be served, and worshiped by all, and requires it.
   1. **Worship** – *proskuneō* – (from *pros*, "towards," and *kuneo*, "to kiss").
      1. “prop. To kiss the hand towards one, in token of reverence” (Thayer).
      2. "’to make obeisance, do reverence to’…It is used of an act of homage or reverence” (Vine).
   2. ***“Kiss the Son”*** – do reverence to Him, render obeisance to Him, worship Him.
2. The church the Lord built is the setting where worship is offered before Him (**cf. Psalm 22:22, 25, 27-28).**
3. The worship which the one church engages in, and offers up to God is distinctive (**cf. Acts 17:22-29** – Paul before the Athenians at Mars’ Hill, or the Areopagus).
   1. Acceptable worship can only be offered by those who know Him **(v. 23**).
      1. Creator (not created), and Lord (**v. 24)**.
      2. Not worshiped because He needs something from us **(v. 25**).
      3. Worshiped because as created beings, our design is to worship Him as Creator (**v. 26-28**).
   2. Therefore, worship of the Creator should not be approached as if He is something created (**v. 29**).
      1. **I.e. because He made us (not the other way around), the terms of worship are set by Him. *(“man’s devising”* – as the origin of God, or anything to do with Him – including worship)**
      2. **(vv. 30-31**) – Therefore, Paul, whose words are the commandments of the Lord God (**cf. 1 Corinthians 14:37**), says the Lord requires repentance from false worship, and every other false thing.
4. **What was the worship of the one church of the Lord? 🡪**
5. Worship
6. A Specific Service
   1. Does a Christian’s worship consist in every activity of life? – Some would say yes:
      1. Is everything we do in life in accordance with God’s word as we devote ourselves to Him worship?
      2. Some suggest there is no need to come to the assembly to worship, because you worship God all day long as you live for Him. Is that true?
   2. **Psalm 2:11-12** – Serve the Lord, Kiss the Son.
      1. These are not the exact same.
      2. **Both are services performed before God – one general, the other specific.**
      3. ***“Kiss the Son”*** is a specific act of service, a worshipful service – an action taken to pay homage, or reverence to the Son.
   3. **Difference between service and worship – service general, worship specific:**
      1. **Genesis 22:5** – Abraham taking Isaac to sacrifice him as commanded.
         1. If all service is worship, Abraham was already worshiping God **(v. 1-3** – obeying God’s command).
         2. ***“I will go yonder and worship”*** – go to a place for that specific purpose, and perform a specific service which was ***“worship.”***
      2. **2 Samuel 12:20** – after David received news of the death of his child. (The one born from sin with Bathsheba)
         1. **(v. 20a)** – Preparation for worship – serving God acceptably.
         2. **(v. 20b)** – Then he worshiped. (**Had a beginning and an end** – ***“Then he went”***) (Whole life serving God is not worship.)
      3. **Romans 12:1** – Our lives are sacrificial, as we present our bodies to God, submitting to His will.
         1. This is continual in life, but not worship.
         2. Service in a general sense, a godly life.
         3. **Necessary to approach God in worship acceptably 🡪**
      4. **1 Timothy 2:8** – Men leading prayer in worship.
         1. Worship service because:
            1. **Men** – *aner* – males.
            2. (**v. 12**) – women to keep silent.
         2. **Pray** – leading prayer in worship, when come together for worship.
         3. ***“holy hands”*** – coming before God in holiness, pure lives, not in sin.
         4. **Living a holy life of service allowed for the man to approach God acceptably in worship 🡪**
      5. **Matthew 5:23-24** – For worship to be acceptable, you must be acceptable before God.
         1. The reconciliation with the brother was necessary as a service to God – it is what He requires.
         2. **However, it was not worship – get right with your brother, then go worship…**
   4. **Why does this distinction matter?**
      1. We cannot worship God in just any way.
      2. **Simply because it is not inherently sinful, and can be practiced by a Christian in a holy manner, does not make it acceptable in worship to God.**
7. In Spirit and Truth **(John 4:23-24** – Jesus to Samaritan at Jacob’s well.)
   1. ***“true worshipers”*** – as opposed to false worshipers.
   2. True because – ***“worship the Father in spirit and truth.”***
   3. ***“the Father is seeking such”*** – **(v. 24)** – Those who worship God must understand who He is, and worship in like manner. (like requires like)
   4. **Worship in Spirit:**
      1. **Because God is Spirit** – not physical, not flesh **(cf. Acts 17:25, 29**).
      2. **Worship** – spiritual service offered by spiritual beings – **John 3:6-8** – born of the Spirit. (**v. 8** – can’t be seen, or tracked – not physical)
      3. **Worship** – "’to make obeisance, do reverence to’…It is used of an act of homage or reverence” (Vine). (Outward expression of an inward attitude of the heart toward God.)
      4. **Psalm 51:16-17** (David’s Psalm of repentance after sin with Bathsheba) – Not that the sacrifices were not required by God, but without the correct condition of the heart it was unacceptable.
      5. **However, this goes hand in hand with worship that is in truth 🡪**
   5. **Worship in Truth**
      1. **John 4:20-24** – Jesus indicating that there will be a change in worship, as there is a change in covenant.
         1. **(v. 22)** – However, the Samaritan’s worship was unacceptable – IN WRONG PLACE.
         2. **Jerusalem was the true place of worship specifically commanded by God – to worship elsewhere was unacceptable.**
         3. **(v. 23-24)** – While ordinances are changing, there is still the necessity for TRUTH WORSHIP.
      2. **Leviticus 10:1-3** – Nadab and Abihu (priests) offer up unacceptable worship – not in truth.
         1. ***“not commanded them”*** – silence does not permit. (God didn’t say not to – but He did not authorize such.)
         2. **When worship offered to God is not in the specific way commanded, it is not acceptable to Him! – No matter the motive.**
      3. **Matthew 15:7-9** (of Pharisees) – Worship that is not authorized is vain worship.
      4. ***The question is not, “where does it say NOT to?,” rather, “where is there authority for such?”***
8. **What is the authorized worship of the ONE CHURCH of the Lord? 🡪**
9. Authorized Worship of Christ’s One Church *(as seen in the church at Corinth)*
10. Preaching/Teaching **(1 Corinthians 14:5, 12, 26)**
    1. **Context** – spiritual gifts – given for the edification of church in revelation of God.
    2. **(v. 5)** – Prophecy best – needs no interpreter.
    3. **(v. 12, 26)** – All is to be done for edification (building up) of the church.
    4. **Acts 2:42a** – The church continued to hear the teaching of God.
       1. The scripture ***(“apostles’ doctrine”)*** is only way God speaks to us today.
       2. **Display of reverence (worship) in setting aside time in devotion to hearing God’s will for us.**
    5. **Act 20:7** – Disciples heard preaching when they came together on the 1st day of week.
       1. When God’s word is declared, and heard in its simplicity, i.e. God’s word alone, He is glorified.
       2. ***“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11)***.
11. Prayer **(1 Corinthians 14:15**)
    1. **(v. 15a)** – with spirit and understanding.
    2. **(v. 16)** – In prayer we ***“bless,”*** or praise God and give Him thanks.
    3. ***In His word He speaks to us, and in prayer we speak to Him!***
    4. It is a display of reverence before Him – ***“In this manner, therefore, pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name’” (Matthew 6:9).***
    5. ***“And they continued steadfastly…in prayers” (Acts 2:42).***
12. Singing (**1 Corinthians 14:15, 26)**
    1. **(v. 15b, 26)** – It is done in spirit, and understanding for edification of the church.
    2. **Colossians 3:16** – It is rooted in the word of Christ.
       1. ***“singing”*** – not playing – no instruments included.
       2. **(v. 17)** – What we do must be authorized by Christ – context before was musical worship – singing.
    3. **Ephesians 5:18-20** – We SPEAK to one another, and to God – giving thanks.
       1. ***“making melody in your heart”***
       2. Melody – *psallo* – to twitch or to twang.
          1. Instruments of music do not inhere in the term.
          2. Context determines what – ***“in your heart”***
    4. **All scripture considering musical aspect of worship is singing, not with mechanical instruments.**
13. Partaking of the Lord’s Supper (**1 Corinthians 11:20-29)**
    1. **(vv. 20-22)** – They were to take the LS, but were doing it wrong (division, common meal).
    2. **(vv. 23-26)** – LS a memorial supper of the Lord’s death instituted by the Lord Himself.
    3. **(vv. 27-29)** – Supposed to take it in a worthy manner, i.e. in remembrance of Him.
    4. ***“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread” (Acts 20:7)***
       1. Done on first day of the week.
       2. **Not any more, or less – only example of WHEN – SILENCE DOES NOT AUTHORIZE.**
14. Giving **(1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9**)
    1. **(16:1-2**) – Commanded contribution for carrying out the work assigned to it by the Lord – namely in this place, benevolence to needy saints.
    2. Also:
       1. **To carry out the work of evangelism 🡪**
       2. **Philippians 4:15-16** – Philippi supported Paul.
    3. **2 Corinthians 8:1-5** – in giving, the Macedonians gave themselves to the Lord in the work He had commanded, and showed their love for others.
    4. **2 Corinthians 9:12** – supplies for the saints, but also results in thanksgiving to God.

**Conclusion** – **cf. Colossians 3:17** – whatever we do, including our worship, must be authorized by God. The worship which the NT church was involved in did not go beyond what God authorized. **Any church which worships differently is not the ONE CHURCH OF CHRIST.**