

INSIGHT

One of the most impressive facts revealed in the New Testament is the marvelous unity with which early Christians worshipped and served God. Not only were disciples united in their form of worship, but were united even in the teachings which they embraced. Luke says in **Acts 2:42** that “*they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*” One of the classic facts of both secular and biblical history is that in the days of the apostles there were no separate denominations and all faithful believers were in complete fellowship with all other Christians throughout the world.

The reason for such unity lies in the complete harmony of the apostolic teachings, which are now contained within the New Testament. When Paul went to Rome, for example, he preached the same doctrine which he had preached in Ephesus, Corinth, Galatia and throughout the known world. Therefore, no separate denomination was formed as a result of his teaching. The same was true of all the other inspired teachers. Being divinely guided by God, they never taught conflicting teachings or practices. Instead, the result was a church identical to the others established. In the New Testament, we do not read of a plurality of “denominations,” but simply The Church. In **Acts 2:47**, for example, we read, “*And the Lord added to their number [lit. church] daily those who were being saved.*” Again Jesus said in **Matthew 16:18**, “*...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*”

Unity is the response of Christ’s prayer. In **John 17:20-21**, He prayed that all His followers be one. For as Christ and His Father are one, so must His disciples be one.

The Body Of Christ

The New Testament Worshippers

Key Text: **John 4:23-24**

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

Theme:

According to Jesus, one of the reasons for unity was to promote belief that He came from the Father (**John 17:21**). Many people in the world today have grown discouraged because of the disunity and confusion found in so-called Christianity. True believers are unified under the Lordship of Christ. Jesus said that the Father seeks those who would worship Him *in Spirit and in truth*. True worship involves not only sincerity, but also truth. Jesus clarifies this statement by defining truth as God’s word (**John 17:17**).

Application:

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. Read the New Testament epistles, and familiarize yourself with the teachings of the first century churches of Christ.
2. Read the following passages in Acts and familiarize yourself with how sinners were converted to Christ:
*Acts 2:36-42; 8:4-12; 8:26-39;
16:13-15; 16:23-34; 18:4-11*
3. Thank God every day for knowing the truth!!!

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. Mt 13:16

May the Lord richly bless you!

SERMON OUTLINE
<p>Worshipping In The Body</p> <p>I. The “Worshipping” Church</p> <p>A. Worship defined</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Greek word: <i>Proskunéo</i><ol style="list-style-type: none">a. <i>adoration</i> definedb. <i>honor</i> definedc. <i>devotion</i> defined2. Worship involves a subject & object <p>B. Motivated To Worship</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Motivated by Love (<i>1 John 4:9-10</i>)2. Jesus is the Reason<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Give him honor (<i>1 Cor 6:20</i>) --the honored king (<i>1 Tim 1:17</i>)b. His love controls us (<i>2 Cor 5:14</i>) <p>II. A Worshipping Heart: John 4:23-24</p> <p>A. True Worship</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The state of mind in which we worship<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. worship not in Mosaic ordinances --canceled (<i>Eph 2:15; Col 2:14</i>)b. worship in spiritual ordinances --<i>Rom 8:9f</i> (anti-flesh)2. Worship In Truth<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Lordship of Christ (<i>Lk 6:46</i>)b. Truth as the Word (<i>Jn 17:17</i>)3. Worship In Spirit (primary statement)<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. God always sought sincerityb. <i>2 Chr. 16:9</i>--committed heartc. <i>1 Chr 28:9</i> -- Lord searches the heart -- wholehearted devotion sought -- willing mind sought -- motives exposed4. God Is Spirit: The true object of worship <p>III. The Problem with Halfheartedness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. King Amaziah’s problem--<i>2 Chr 25:2</i> <p>Conclusion: Worship In Spirit (<i>Phil 3:3</i>)</p>

SMALL GROUP STUDY
<p>Warm-up: What determines the value of a gift? Is it its cost? Explain.</p> <p>See To It John 4:1-24</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the nature of the water Christ gives? What is this water? Explain with Scripture.2. What prompted the woman to acknowledge Jesus as a prophet?3. How does exposure of sin promote true worship of God? What other aspects do we see in this woman that would promote true worship of God?6. Isn’t worshipping scripturally enough? Why? <p>Seeing It Closer: Take a piece of paper. After the teacher reads each question, write down your answer. Answer honestly and truthfully. No one will know your answers except you and the Lord.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On a scale of 1 to 5, how often do you find yourself humbly praying on your knees or prostrate before the Lord? “1” being rarely and “5” being all the time.2. On a scale of 1 to 5, how is your spirit of giving? “1” being least willing and “5” being most willing.3. On a scale of 1 to 5, how important is the assembly of the saints to you? “1” being the least important and “5” being most important.4. On a scale of 1 to 5, how important is fellowship to you? “1” being the least important and “5” being most important. <p>Getting To It: Pray for one another that our worship will be a heartfelt worship in Spirit and truth.</p>