

What is worship?

Some preachers like to use the “5 acts of worship”

The things that we do in the assembly.

Communion Acts 20.7

preaching Acts 20.7

give 1Cor 16.1-2

sing Eph 5.19

Col 3.16

pray Act 12:5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but
prayer for him was being made fervently by the
church to God.

I would hasten to point out that we do all of those things except for communion at other times.

The only thing that is specifically associated only with our assembly on the first day of the week is the communion and we find that is commanded in 1Co 11:18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. ... 20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper,

*When you come together as the church ... it is not
[but it should be] to eat the Lord's supper*

Then when do we come together?

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

The collection was to be made when the whole church had come together and they were to do that each first day of the week!

So are all of these things worship?

Communion Acts 20.7

preaching Acts 20.7

give 1Cor 16.1-2

sing Eph 5.19

Col 3.16

Of course they are as they are in direct obedience
to God.

Joh 4:21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ... 23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

There is something that a lot of people forget as they seek to worship God – His commandments!

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

If you come together, not seeking to proclaim the Lord's death you have a problem and that includes doing this until He returns.

That includes some of our young people – who are unwilling to obey the gospel – because they do not believe that Christ died for their sins – and so they don't proclaim His death!

Others believe that He has already come and make a mockery of the Lord's supper by taking it without believing why they should – until He comes!

So, we do worship when we come together, but the idea of worship is much larger.

Rom 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. NAS

Rom 12:1 which is your reasonable service. -- KJV
this is your true and proper worship. -- NIV
which is your spiritual worship. -- ESV

serviceG2999 *latreia*

Thayer Definition: 1) service rendered for hire

1a) any service or ministration: the service of God

2) the service and worship of God according to the requirements of the Levitical law

3) to perform sacred services

Whenever we obey God, with obedience to him being the reason, we worship him.

Rom 12:9- love without hypocrisy. Abhor evil; cling to good. (10) Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; (11) not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; (12) rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, (13) contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. (14) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

(15) Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. (16) Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. (17) Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. (18) If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. (19) Never take your own revenge, beloved, (21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A second question that comes with worship is
“fellowship”.

1Co 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it
not the communion of the blood of Christ? The
bread which we break, is it not the communion of
the body of Christ? (KJV)

1Co 10:16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it
not a participation in the blood of Christ? The
bread that we break, is it not a participation in the
body of Christ? (ESV)

participation *koinōnia*

Thayer Definition: 1) fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse

1a) the share which one has in anything, participation

1b) intercourse, fellowship, intimacy

1b1) the right hand as a sign and pledge of fellowship (in fulfilling the apostolic office)

1c) a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, as exhibiting an embodiment and proof of fellowship

Suppose the fellow sitting next to you when we passed the bread – completely unknown to you – murdered someone last night (or some other grievous or not so grievous sin). And you passed the plate to him (her). Have you shared the bread or the cup of the Lord with that person?

1Jn 1:5-7 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. (6) If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; (7) but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

There is our word *koinōnia*

First of all, to *have fellowship with Him* we have to walk in righteousness and that fellow who just murdered someone doesn't – he walks in darkness *yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth*; So that man is not in fellowship with God.

But if we have been walking in righteousness, then *we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin*

So it isn't a matter of fellowship if that guy is walking in darkness and we don't know about it — that's his problem.

What if we know about it?

1Co 5:11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

Eph 5:11 And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

When we find out about it, we have to do something about it.

1Co 5:1-2 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. (2) And you have become arrogant, and have not mourned instead, in order that the one who had done this deed might be removed from your midst.

If we know about it and we don't do anything about it, we are not walking in righteousness and 1Jn 1:6 tells us we are not walking with God!

(6) If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

1Jn 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

If we all sin, we all walk in unrighteousness, how long before we have to break fellowship?

How long did God put up with it?

Acts 15 – a doctrinal matter of circumcision 51 AD
Act 21:24-25 take them and purify yourself along
with them, and pay their expenses in order that
they may shave their heads; and all will know that
there is nothing to the things which they have been
told about you, but that you yourself also walk
orderly, keeping the Law. (25) "But concerning the
Gentiles who have believed, we wrote, having
decided that they should abstain from meat
sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is
strangled and from fornication."

That's at AD 57 – 6 years after the matter came up
in Acts 15.

But now at AD 68-70 – another 11- 13 years
Gal 5:3-4 And I testify again to every man who
receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to
keep the whole Law. (4) You have been severed
from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by
law; you have fallen from grace.

Paul says exactly the opposite of what James says
in Acts 21.

It appears to me that when we have a dispute about doctrinal matters, God is tolerant and gives us time to learn.

When it comes to sins of the flesh, God is not tolerant and expects us to move quickly.

What's the difference? In one case we can clearly point out the sin – it is mentioned in 1Cor 5.11 or Gal 5.19-21.

In the other case, we are going to have to study?
Sometimes 11-13 years.

