

Worship

What makes a “church” service?

When the elders say it is?

When the brethren agree it is?

**When the bulletin (preacher) says it
is?**

**What if the elders, brethren, or
bulletin disagree?**

Recently a periodical I sort of like printed an article in which it said young women served as ushers at a “worship service” at one of our colleges.

We need to ask ourselves about the limitations that are placed on both men and women as they worship God.

We discussed what worship is last week (The CD's are available in the foyer and the PowerPoints are on our website at www.gbchurchofchrist.com)

Concerning our worship –

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers,
in view of God's mercy, to offer
your bodies as living sacrifices,
holy and pleasing to God – this is
your spiritual act of worship.*

(Rom 12:1 NIV)

If living a Christian life is
worship, what makes a worship
service?

A worship service would be any
service offered to God.

A question, “How does the NT
define a “church service?”

We are presently in the assembly
— what assembly? -- The one
directed by the Holy Spirit — the
one where we proclaim Jesus’
death.

*Matt 16:18 "And I also say to you that
you are Peter, and upon this rock I will
build My church; and the gates of
Hades shall not overpower it.*

Jesus said he would build his assembly
(the Greek word *ekklesia*).

His church.

*1 Tim 3:15 but in case I am delayed, I
write so that you may know how one
ought to conduct himself in the
household of God, which is the church of
the living God, the pillar and support of
the truth.*

Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit, writes
about behavior in the assembly – the
church.

The assembly – the church – is not just any worship service, but is a special gathering.

We have seen that we worship in many ways (Rom 12), but there is something unique in the assembly of Christ.

*1 Cor 1:2 to the church of God
which is at Corinth, to those who
have been sanctified in Christ
Jesus, saints by calling, with all
who in every place call upon the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
their Lord and ours:*

Singing is carried out both in the assembly
and in other worship services.

*Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly
dwell within you, with all wisdom
teaching and admonishing one another
with psalms and hymns and spiritual
songs, singing with thankfulness in your
hearts to God.*

Acts 16:25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

I may sing privately or publicly, but we are told that we are to teach and admonish one another in Col 3.16! To whom was that written – the saints and faithful brethren at Colossae – the church at Colossae!

Singing is carried out in the assembly to fulfill this command – *with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

You have to have a group together to fulfill that command!

We may sing in worship to God at other times, so it is not unique to the assembly.

Praying is carried out in the assembly as well as privately or in public place.

In the church men are to lead in prayer.

1 Tim 2:8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. ... 3:15 ... how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

Acts 16:25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

Praying is carried out in the assembly as in other worship services, so it is not unique to the assembly.

Contributing for the Lord's work
(that work commanded of the church
by the Lord) is to be done in the
assembly.

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

Contributing for the Lord's work
is sometimes done individually –
an service of worship.

Acts 20:34 "You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. 35 "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Contributing for the Lord's work is not
unique to the assembly.

Reading the Bible and preaching is
done in the assembly.

*Acts 20:7 And on the first day of the
week, when we were gathered
together to break bread, Paul began
talking to them, intending to depart
the next day, and he prolonged his
message until midnight*

Reading the Bible and preaching
individually is a worship service
but often done outside the
assembly

*Acts 8:35 And Philip opened his mouth,
and beginning from this Scripture he
preached Jesus to him. 36 And as they
went along the road they came to some
water; and the eunuch said, "Look!
Water! What prevents me from being
baptized?"*

Reading the Bible and preaching is not
unique to the assembly.

What is the specific worship service in which men are to take the lead? What is unique to the assembly of Christ?

Christians in the NT assembled on
the first day of the week.

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

The reason they assembled was specifically for the observance of the Lord's Supper as a memorial and proclamation (1Co 11:20). The Corinthians were not coming together for the right purpose as the church and thus sinned!

Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:20)

They should have been coming to “eat the Lord’s Supper, but that wasn’t why they came together! They should have gathered for a proclamation but they had perverted it into a common meal – and to make it worse – some couldn’t partake because they weren’t sharing.

1 Cor 11:22 ... *What shall I say to you?
Shall I praise you? In this I will not
praise you. ... 25 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." 26 For whenever you eat this bread
and drink this cup, you proclaim the
Lord's death until he comes.*

We can only conclude that any Christian who does not assemble every first day of the week to proclaim the Lord's death till he comes "*shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord*" (1Co 11:27).

We also “wait” (tarry) for those who are unable to be with us as we assemble for the Lord’s Supper.

How long is this “wait”? In Acts 17.16 and 1Co 16.11, Paul waited (same Greek word) weeks or months. In Heb 10.13, the wait is the entire Christian age. At 1Pet 3.20, it is 120 years while Noah was building an ark.

This is what the New Testament church practiced

Acts 20:6 We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days. 7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

Paul arrived on Monday and waited until Sunday so that he could meet with the brethren to proclaim the Lord's death. The Lord's Supper is the only act of worship that is done **only** in the assembly just as it serves as the reason for the assembly.

Are women to serve in the assembly

1 Tim 2:8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. .. 3:2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, ... 12 Let deacons be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. ... 15 how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

The assembly is a very special worship service. Women are not seen in places of public service in the assembly and our brother erred in saying that a singing and preaching service at a college supported by brethren was the equivalent of the church – the assembly of Christ – the church of Christ!

Those who are put into Christ's church (His body
Eph 1.22-23) are put there by Him
Acts 2:47 praising God, and having favor with all
the people. And the Lord was adding to their number
day by day those who were being saved.

How do we get into Christ – through baptism

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into
Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Has the Lord put you in His body?