
The Communion of the Saints

Part 7:

The Worship of the Church

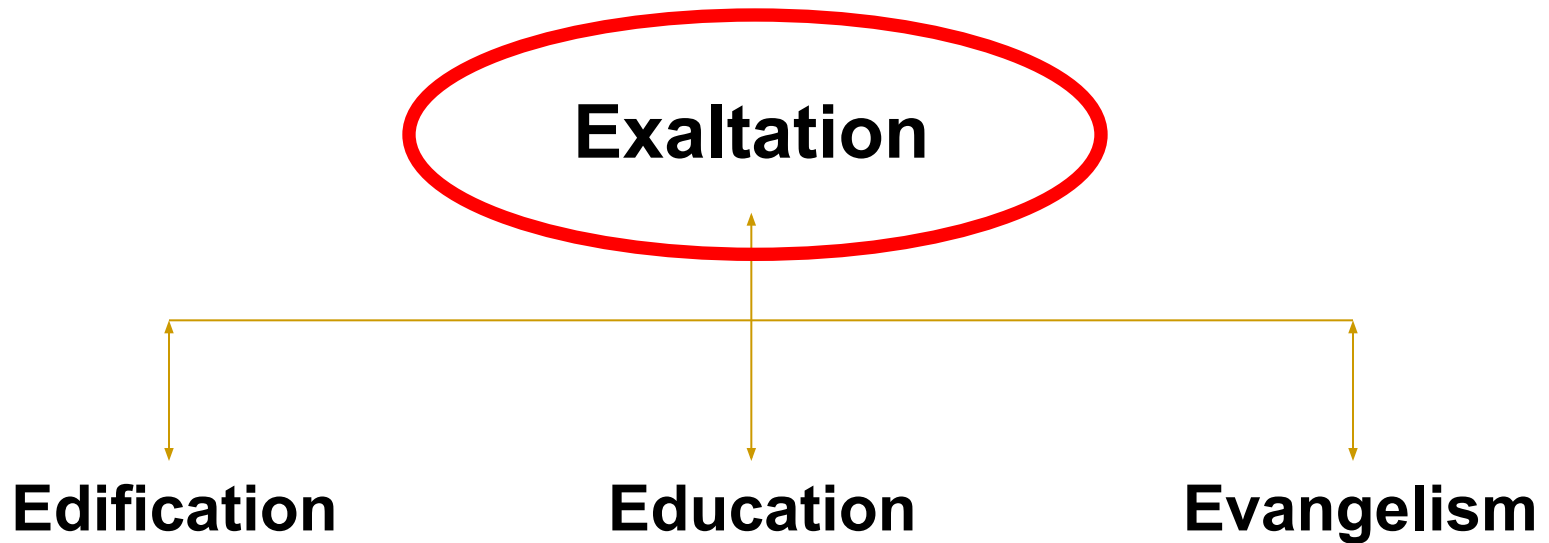


Introduction

- “The keenness with which 11 A.M., the hour of public worship, was awaited each Sunday will ever remain in the memories of those who were there. In a day in which church-going was no longer fashionable, a certain sense of expectation could be found in the very streets approaching the Chapel as hundreds converged from all directions.”

--Iain Murray

The Purpose of the Church



The Definition of Worship

- True Worship is **Directed Towards** God
 - **John MacArthur:** "Worship is honor and adoration directed to God."
 - **Psalm 100:1:** "Shout joyfully to the Lord."
 - **Psalm 100:2:** "Serve the Lord with gladness."
 - **Psalm 100:4:** "Give thanks to Him, bless His name."
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The Definition of Worship

- True worship seeks **communion** with God
 - **William Barclay says**, “Genuine worship is when man, through his spirit, attains to friendship and intimacy with God. True worship is when the spirit, the immortal and invisible part of man, meets with God, who is immortal and invisible.”
 - **Psalm 100:2**: “Come into His presence with singing.”
 - **Psalm 42:1-2**: “As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?”

The Definition of Worship

- True worship engages the **entire being**
 - **Ken Davis:** “Worship is a life-consuming sacrificial response to God whereby I offer to him my head, my heart, and my hands for the purpose of bringing him pleasure.”
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The Definition of Worship

■ Psalm 100:1-2:

- Worship affects the lips: “*shout joyfully.*”
 - Worship affects the will: “*come before Him.*”
 - Worship affects the hands: “*Serve the lord.*”
 - Worship affects the mind: “*know that the Lord Himself is God.*”
 - Worship affects the heart: “*shout joyfully, Serve the Lord with gladness*”
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The Definition of Worship

- True worship focuses on divine **worthiness**.
 - **Ligon Duncan:** “Worship is declaring with our lips and with our lives that God is more important than anything else in the world to us. He is our deepest desire. His inherent worth is beyond everything else we hold dear.”
 - **Psalm 29:1-2:** “Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of the mighty, Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in holy array.”

The Definition of Worship

- The English word worship comes from its original root word “worthship:” to attribute worth to an object.
 - To ascribe worth and value to God
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The Practice of Private Worship

- Worship must affect **all of life**
 - **Romans 12:1** “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”
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The Practice of Private Worship

- **Jonah 1:3:** “But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.”
 - Worship = seeking the presence of the Lord
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The Practice of Private Worship

- **Genesis 3:8:** “The man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord.”
 - Jonah is not just trying to flee God’s mission, He is trying to flee from God Himself
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The Practice of Private Worship

- **Jonah 1:8:** “What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”



The Practice of Private Worship

- **Jonah 1:8:** “What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”
 - **Jonah 1:9:** He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven.”
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The Practice of Private Worship

- The great balance of worship: we need both private worship and public worship



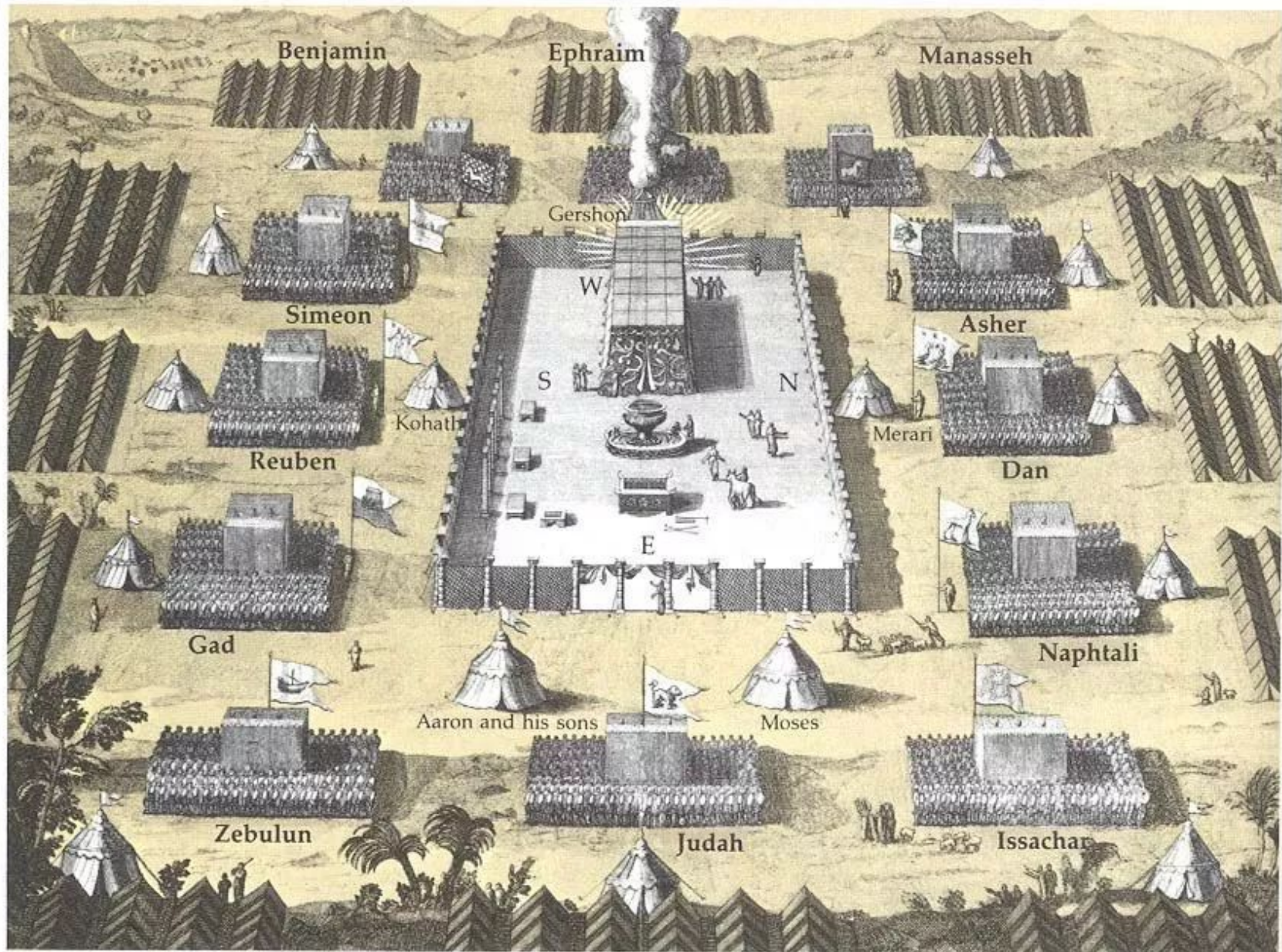
The Practice of Corporate Worship

- **Psalm 100:4:** “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.”
 - Corporate, from “corpus” (Latin for “body”) aka:
 - Gathered
 - Assembled
 - Public
 - Congregational
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The Practice of Corporate Worship

- The Old Testament emphasized corporate worship
 - The tabernacle takes 243 verses to describe
 - The creation of the world takes 31 verses to describe
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"They shall encamp facing the tent of meeting . . ."



The Practice of Corporate Worship

- The glory of the Lord filled the **temple**
 - **2 Chronicles 7:1-2:** “Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. **2** The priests could not enter into the house of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord’s house.”
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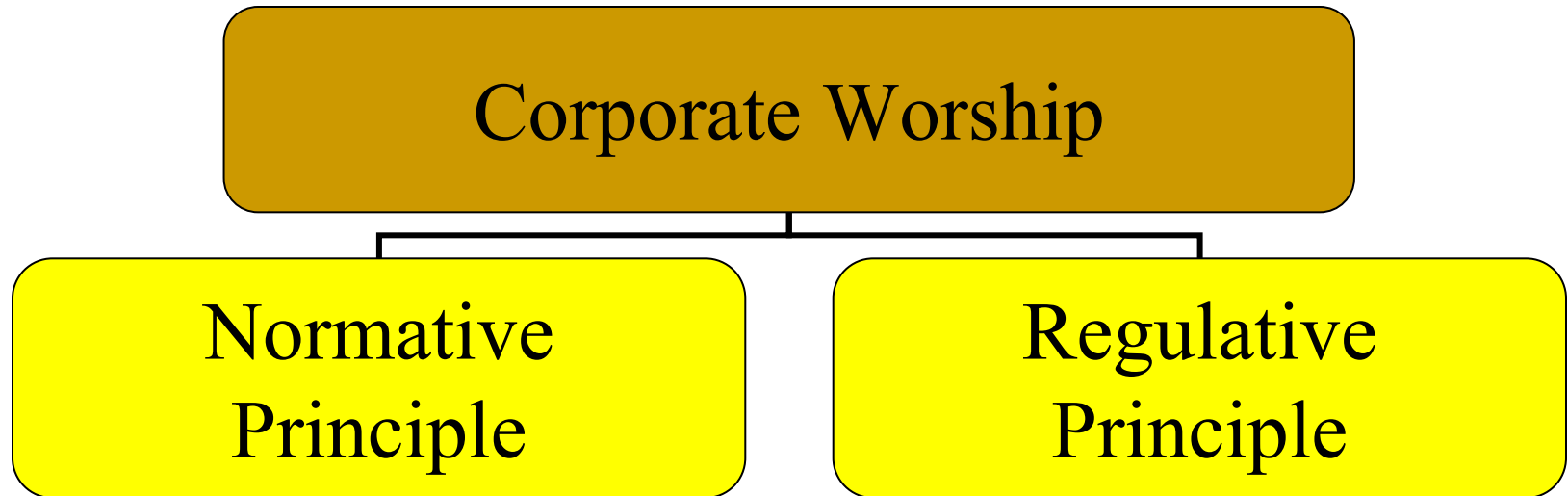
The Practice of Corporate Worship

- The glory of the Lord filled His church
 - Acts 2:1-4
 - In the New Testament the church is the **Temple** of God
 - God visits His corporate people in a way He does not individually
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The Practice of Corporate Worship

- **Stacy Woods:** “In an extraordinary way, the presence of God was in that Church. I personally felt as if a hand were pushing me through the pew. At the end of the sermon for some reason or the other the organ did not play, the Doctor went off into the vestry and everyone sat completely still without moving. It must have been almost ten minutes before people seemed to find the strength to get up and, without speaking to one another, quietly leave the Church.”
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The Principle for Corporate Worship



The Principle for Corporate Worship

- The Normative (or Permissive) Principle:
 - You may have in worship whatever is not expressly **forbidden**



The Principle for Corporate Worship

- The Regulative Principle
 - May allow in worship only what Scripture has expressly **commanded**



The Pattern of New Testament Corporate Worship

- **Public Prayer**
 - **Acts 2:42:** “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”
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The Pattern of New Testament Corporate Worship

- **The Administration of the Ordinances**
 - **Acts 2:42:** “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”
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The Pattern of New Testament Corporate Worship

- **Offering**
 - **1 Corinthians 16:2:** “On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”
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The Pattern of New Testament Corporate Worship

- **Singing**
 - **Colossians 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.”
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The Pattern of New Testament Corporate Worship

- The content of our singing: “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you”



The Pattern of New Testament Corporate Worship

- The variety of our singing: “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs”



The Pattern of New Testament Corporate Worship

- The impact of our singing: “teaching and admonishing”
 - Covers a wide range of Christian experience



The Pattern of New Testament Corporate Worship

- **The Word**
 - **1 Timothy 4:13:** “give attention to the *public* reading of *Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching.”
 - Public Reading
 - Preaching/Teaching
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The Pattern of New Testament Corporate Worship

- Preaching and listening to preaching are acts of worship
 - You are communing with God in the **revelation of Himself**
 - **Cotton Mather:** “The great design and intention of a Christian preacher is to restore the throne and dominion of God in the souls of men.”
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Practical Application

- Prepare your heart for corporate worship
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Practical Application

- Prepare your hearts to hear preaching
 - **James 1:21:** “in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”



Practical Application

- **Spurgeon:** “We are told men ought not to preach without preparation. Granted. But we add, men ought not to hear without preparation. Which, think you, needs the most preparation, the sower or the ground? I would have the sower come with clean hands but I would have the ground well plowed and harrowed, well turned over and the clods broken before the seed is cast in. It seems to me that there is more preparation needed by the ground than by the sower—more by the hearer than by the preacher.”
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Practical Application

- Worship from the heart



Psalm 100

“Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. **2** Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. **3** Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving *And* His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. **5** For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting *And* His faithfulness to all generations.”
