

Why Am I A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

(Part 7)
John 4:23-24

Why Am I A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

- ▶ Built upon the right foundation.
- ▶ Recognizes Christ as its only head and source of authority.
- ▶ Organized according to the divine pattern.
- ▶ Accepts only the gospel of Christ as its creed.

Why Am I A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

- ▶ Refuses all human names and recognizes only the divinely given name of Christ.
- ▶ No human requirements that must be met.
- ▶ In the church of Christ, I can worship the Lord, each Lord's day without the innovations of men and yet be able to do everything early Christians did in their public worship of God.

Why Am I A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

- ▶ **Worships according to the Scriptures:**
 - Singing. Matthew 26:30; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; 13:15; James 5:13
 - Praying. Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5,12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17
 - Teaching. Acts 5:42; 1 Timothy 3:15
 - Lord's Supper. Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23ff
 - Giving. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Attitude Toward Worship

What is worship?

- ▶ "to make obeisance, do reverence to" ... "It is used of an act of homage or reverence to God" (Vine's Expository Dictionary)

Attitude Toward Worship

Worship is a vital part of the life of a Christian.

"I will extol thee, my God, O King: and I will bless thy name forever and ever" (Psalms 145:1).

"Holy and reverend is thy name" (Psalms 111:9).

Our worship of God demands reverence.

- ▶ Psalms 2:11-12, **"Worship the LORD with reverence, and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish in the way."** (NASV)
- ▶ Psalms 5:7, **"But as for me, by Thine abundant lovingkindness I will enter Thy house, at Thy holy temple I will bow in reverence for Thee."** (NASV)
- ▶ Jesus, taught the disciples to address God reverently, **"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name"** (Matthew 6:9).

Not All Worship Is Acceptable With God.

- ▶ Vain Worship. Matthew 15:7–9
- ▶ Mock Worship. Mark 15:19–20
- ▶ Will Worship. Colossians 2:18–23
- ▶ Ignorant Worship. Acts 17:23; Romans 1:21
- ▶ True Worship. John 4:23–24
 - **In Spirit** – Proper disposition of mind involving sincerity and devotion. Inner person participates.
 - **In Truth** – What God has authorized. More than emotion. cf. Romans 10:1–3

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Singing

Hebrews 2:12; 1 Corinthians 14:15

- ▶ Expression of a heart that is *turned upward and outward*.
 - Speaking to one another. Ephesians 5:19
 - Making melody in your heart to the Lord. Ephesians 5:19
 - Teaching and admonishing one another. Colossians 3:16

Prayer

1 Corinthians 14:15–16

- ▶ Expression of a heart that *depends on God*. Matthew 6:5–8, 9–13
 - Continue steadfastly in prayer. Acts 2:42
 - Pray for our brethren, for our leaders, for all men. Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; 1 Timothy 2:1–2
 - With one accord and with holy hands. Acts 4:24–30; 1 Timothy 2:8

Teaching God's Word

1 Corinthians 14:26

- ▶ Expression of a heart that *loves truth*. Psalms 119:97
 - Preach the word of God, not fables. 2 Timothy 4:2–4
 - Preach the apostles' doctrine. Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 2:1–5; 2 Timothy 4:2 (3:16–17)
 - To edify hearers. 1 Corinthians 14:26; Acts 20:32; 2 Timothy 2:2

The Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:26–29

- ▶ Expression of a heart as it *remembers Christ*.
 - Communion with Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:16
 - Memorial of His death for our sins. 1 Corinthians 11:23–29
 - Every first day of the week. Acts 20:7; 2:42
 - Come together as a church ... in one place 1 Corinthians 11:18, 20

Giving

Acts 4:32–35

- ▶ Expression of a heart that is *first given to the Lord* and that *sacrifices* to God, 2 Corinthians 8:5, 12
 - On the first day of the week as we have been prospered. 1 Corinthians 16:2
 - Voluntary, with purpose and cheerfulness of heart. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Do Not Change God-Approved Worship

- ▶ By substituting the doctrines of men.
Matthew 15:7-9; Colossians 2:20-23
- ▶ By profaning God and our worship of Him with irreverent conduct during worship services.
Hebrews 12:28-29; Malachi 1:12-14
- ▶ Remember Nadab and Abihu.
(Leviticus 10:1-2)

Conclusion:

Let us not “profane” our worship by taking that which is holy and treating it as common.

- ▶ May our worship reflect the attitude and character of one who truly fears God and holds His holy name in reverence and awe.
- ▶ Let us bring the best we have in attitude, dignity, respect, and character as we worship God.

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