

“And I also say to you that you are Peter,
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gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:18

What is Worship?

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This is what we looked at last week.

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We compared what the Scriptures say about worship to what we do each Sunday, and we noted the difference.

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Let’s get started.

What is Church?

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There is no mention of a building, denomination, or tax-exempt entity.

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And it looks nothing like what we do today.

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It is really just that simple.

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In Him (Jesus) you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, (which is) the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who (Holy Spirit) is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14

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Remember, He is God, and we are not.

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One is active, the other passive.

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Think about what church looks like today.

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Church Buildings

What is Church?

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Church Buildings

Church Settings / Arrangements

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Church Buildings

Church Settings / Arrangements

Clergy / Laity

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Church Settings / Arrangements

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What about the “priesthood of all believers”?

Priesthood of All Believers

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Priesthood of All Believers

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The priesthood of all believers is the doctrine that declares that the privilege and freedom of all believing Christians is to stand before God in personal communion through Christ, directly receiving forgiveness without the necessary recourse to human intermediaries. As priests (1 Peter 2:5, 9), believers directly offer sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving to God and minister to the needs of others. Ordained pastors are not different from other believers in spiritual status, but only in function and appointment.

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But you (personal) are a chosen generation, (you are) a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, (why) that you (personal) may proclaim the praises of Him who called you (personal) out of darkness into His marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

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And how would that change Sunday "church" for you?

One Another

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But first, the weekly church service of today is designed for worship, hearing a sermon, and, in some cases, evangelism.

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But the first century church was designed for mutual edification (the act of building up or bringing something closer to fullness or completion, to strengthen, encourage, making whole).

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How is it then, brethren? Whenever (what) you come together, each of you (not just the clergy) has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

1 Corinthians 14:26

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Let all things be done for the building up of the body of Christ into completion and maturity. And it looks like this process involves more than just the pastor.

One Another

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And let us consider (who) one another (why) in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but (what) exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

One Another

And let us consider (who) one another (why) in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but (what) exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

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This is more than a statement not to forsake church. It is a command for each of us to exhort each other.

Ephesians 4:11-12

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, (why) for the equipping of the saints (holy ones, called-out ones) for the work of ministry, (which is) for the edifying of the body of Christ,

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Note, the five-fold ministry listed here is to equip the church for ministry, and that ministry is the building up (edifying) of each other, of the body of Christ.

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And why is this so important?

Ephesians 4:13-14

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till we (the church, the body of Christ, you and me)
all come to the unity of the faith and of the
knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the
measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
(why) that we (the church, the body of Christ) should
no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried
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Then what should we do?

Ephesians 4:15-16

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but, (we, implied) speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head— Christ— from whom the whole body (church, all its members), joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share (each member), causes growth of the body (church) for the edifying of (what) itself (church) in love.

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How can this be done if only a few minister to others?

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What about the priesthood of believers?

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What about the clergy / laity divide?

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What about when only the ordained speak in church?

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What did it look like in the New Testament?

What Did a Church Service Look Like?

What Did a Church Service Look Like?

How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together (including the Lord's Day), each of you (not just the clergy) has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation.

Let all things be done for edification.

1 Corinthians 14:26

What Did a Church Service Look Like?

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Colossians 3:16

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(you, implied) Speaking to (who) one another
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Ephesians 5:19

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And look what Hebrews says about mutual participation being the divine antidote for apostasy and a divine means for growing in your individual spiritual lives.

What Did a Church Service Look Like?

What Did a Church Service Look Like?

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God (apostasy); but (the antidote) exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," (why) lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:12-13

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Hebrews 3:12-13

Should this not take place also on the Lord's Day?

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Should this not take place also on the Lord's Day?

And if not, why?

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Hebrews 10:24-25

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And if not, why?

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And are you willing to follow Him when He does?

