

Propriety In Worship

Hope Chapel Tokorozawa

1Corinthians 11:1-34

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.” (1Corinthians 11:23-26, ESV)

Introduction

In the second century, a Christian leader named Justin Martyr wrote to the Roman Emperor to explain communion when the believers had been falsely accused of sacrificing an infant and drinking its blood as an excuse to persecute them. In *The First Apology (AD 150)* we learn that seven things about worship and communion: 1) they met on Sunday because it was the day of the resurrection and marked God's re-creation, 2) public worship included the reading and explanation of the Scriptures followed by communion, 3) the leader taught and encouraged the worshipers to imitate Christ in everyday life, 4) everyone prayed, 5) prayer and thanksgiving were given for the bread and wine before they ate together, 6) bread and wine were sent to those who could not attend, and 7) a collection was taken and distributed to widows, orphans, the sick, imprisoned, sojourners and the needy.

1. Follow me as I follow Christ. (vv. 1-16)

- a) Paul saw himself as a follower of Christ and steward of the mysteries of godliness.
- b) We should be concerned with spiritual and not positional authority in our worship.

2. The place of the Word and the Table in our worship. (vv. 17-26)

- a) The Lord's Table is a place for unity, remembrance, reconciliation, worship and hope.
- b) The Lord's Supper “proclaims the Lord's death until he comes (again).”

3. What is a worthy manner of worship at the Lord's Table? (vv. 27-34)

- a) We should grow in our understanding about the nature of our Lord's sacrifice.
- b) We should grow in our understanding of the physical and spiritual body of Christ.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

- 1) Read vv. 1-16. What kind of behavior is appropriate for worship in your context?
- 2) Read vv. 17-26. Then teach and take communion with your family or MiniChurch.
- 3) Read Hebrews 10:1-39 over the course of the week and tell someone what you learned.

Conclusion:

Worshipping in spirit and truth is a matter of heart and content both in private and in public. Our hearts must recognize both the Lord's sacrifice and the body of Christ which is all who have been redeemed by Christ. The content of our worship should declare the whole of God's story through the Word of God and the Lord's Table as well as with prayer and song.

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