

## Let Us Show Respect For GOD In Our Worship Assemblies

by Roger D. Campbell Klang church of Christ Selangor, Malaysia

Following the death of Abihu and Nadab, two sons of Aaron who were killed for offering fire which the Lord had not commanded them, God said, "By those who come near me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified." (Leviticus 10:1-3). That whole scenario convinces me that worshipping the God of heaven is a serious activity that requires each worshipper to be holy and prepared to glorify Him properly. Do you not agree?

Surely no child of God doubts the fact that He is worthy to be praised. The throne-scene in Revelation 4 shows elders praising God Almighty with these words: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for you created all things, and by your will they exist and were created" (4:11). In the Book of Psalms, we also read, "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker" (Psalm 95:6).

In this article, we want to offer some practical observations and reminders about our worship assemblies. God wants us to be true worshippers, that is, those who offer true worship to Him (John 4:23). One aspect of God-pleasing worship is that it is offered "in spirit" (John 4:23,24). When worship is offered "in spirit," it is presented with a proper attitude, a proper focus, a proper motive, and comes sincerely from the heart. The Master spoke of those who honor God with their lips, but their heart is far from Him (Mark 7:6). If you and I have proper reverence for God, then when we praise Him with spiritual songs, speak to Him in prayers, or take part in any other act of worship, we focus on what we are thinking, saying, and doing – it comes from the heart.

Another manner in which we show our respect for God in a worship gathering is by showing respect for His word. Show me a person that does not respect what God says, and I'll show you a person (that same one!) that really does not respect God (Luke 6:46). How is reverence for God's word connected with worship? Number one, we must have respect for the Bible's instructions about worship itself. Since true worship is offered "in truth," it is in harmony with what God's truth says (John 4:24; 17:17). That means that I ought to care about what the Bible says about worship. Only that which is authorized by the Lord is allowed in worship (Colossians 3:17). Making additions to the God-designated worship revealed in the New Testament brings condemnation on those who do the adding. Second, we also need to show respect for God's word by listening reverently when it is proclaimed faithfully. When Ezra opened and read from God's word, the Jews that were assembled with him stood up and remained standing and listening for hours (Ezra 8:1-9:3). What respect!

Furthermore, we must show reverence for God in worship by trying to maintain a serious, reverent atmosphere. I do *not* mean that we ought to refrain from smiling or act like lifeless robots. But, we should care about proper "worship decorum." Such calls on each member of the Lord's body to help create and maintain an atmosphere in which every single one of us can focus on the worship that we are offering. We must do everything within our power to keep distractions at a minimum. Why? Because they hinder us from keeping our attention on praising, honoring, and glorifying Jehovah.

What sort of distractions commonly plague modern-day assemblies? One is playing with or making faces at babies or small children that are seated close to us. Those who do that are certainly not focused on the One on the throne in heaven, and their immature gesturing adversely affects others that observe them. A second form of distraction is carrying on conversations with those sitting near to us. Brothers and sisters, this has to cease! From the first words spoken in a worship assembly to the end of the closing prayer, there is no place for you or me to "chat" with another person in the assembly. Those who do so are coming before the throne of the Almighty with a flippant, irreverent attitude. How can a brother in the Lord be joking around with others during the sermon or singing, then afterwards come forward to lead the Lord's Supper or a prayer?! Before God it must be an abomination.

Now we come to a 21<sup>st</sup>-century distraction in worship that our brethren of past generations did not have to face. What is it? It is the "all-important" hand phone. You know, the device that even a 13-year old cannot seem to do without for two hours of Bible class and worship! I would like to go through at least one Bible class or worship assembly this year without having some Christian's hand phone ring. Can we accomplish that this year, brethren? Is it asking too much to *be focused* on the God of heaven?! Know this: if your phone rings during an assembly, it is not the Lord calling you! Because God does not call on hand phones, then whoever wants to contact me can just wait until after services are over. I recall one worship assembly in which I watched in horror as the teenage child of a deacon played on her hand phone and sent messages on it. Where were her proud parents? Sitting right beside her. Please, leave the thing outside the building or else turn it to a setting where it makes no noise.

As for me and my house, when we go to worship, we plan to be there and ready to praise God before the first word of the assembly is spoken. And, we intend to stay through the final "Amen." At our house we call that respect for God – giving Him our heart for the whole assembly and not just part of it.

## NEWSLETTER

### July 15, 2018

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## Schedule of Services

Sunday AM Bible Study	9:45 AM
Sunday AM Worship	11:00 AM
No Sunday PM Service	
Wednesday PM Bible Study	7:00 PM

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### We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you) so we may have a record of your visit. Later in the service we will pass around a collection plate. As a visitor you are obviously not expected to give but we would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in the collection plate. Thanks.

*There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs for infant care.*

**Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent during worship.**



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2350 Nashville Rd.  
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## Condolences

Joyce Cameron was taken from Elderwood to St Mary's Hospital on Monday. She passed away Wednesday morning at St. Mary's. Please see the obituary posted on the back board concerning visitation and funeral services.

**Prayer List** *In our prayers let's praise God, recognize His greatness, and thank Him for His blessings.*

**Those that attend:** Mildred Lynum, Bill Flanagan, Anna Brink, Frank Marsden, Bill Kinney, Pat Hazlett, David Alcorn, Darlene Reed, Butts & Edie Sumner, Chris Highway, Candi Butcher, Cheryl Mellott, Joyce Cameron, Willow McFarland, Tahlia Willis, Logan Bennett, Kyra Kyle, Bev McArthur, Maria Swindlehurst, Jean Cameron, Sonny Stine, Brenda Nelson, Diane Mellott, Dennis Reed, Marge Reed, and Cheryl Mellott.

**People in other places:** Renee Kinney, Tim Mellott and family, T.J., Wednesday Rahelich, Jack Openshaw, Betty & Dennis Leistner, Denise Garlitz' grandchildren and her son Jeff, Mary Lou, Frank's niece, Tony & Eglar Grana, Susan Barrett & family, Karen Anstee, George Beckwith, Cindy, Doris & Mary Jane Mess, Andrea, Red & Goldie Crow, Samantha Allee, Cheryl Wheeler, Levi, Jeanne Johns, Loretta Gorito, Kay Ables, Gloria, Dorothea Johnson, Tammy, Rita D, Jenna, Irene Jurek, Billie Jo Potter, Debbie Curry, Jaye Boyle, Barry Mitchell, Martha, Andrew, Vanessa Lewis, Williams family, Mary, Jean Fitzgerald, Mary Lou & Louise (Anna Brink's sisters), Malissa Layton, Th'alise Robinson, Ashley, Noreen Andrews, John - Maria Swindlehurst's brother in law, Emily Sestack, Keith Marten, Debbie, Paul (Becky Torres' father), Paul Orton, Minnee, Gary, Holly Leistner, Leonard Amanatey, Denise and Darlene's brother Dale, Dennis Leistner, and the Rogers family.

**Let's pray as we continue our preacher search process.**

### Updates:

**Carol Jones** is dealing with shingles.

**Louella Hopkins** .... She had tests and had normal results but she is still having pain.

**Candi Butcher** is dealing with an ear infection.

It was good to see **Sonny & Linda Stine** with us last Sunday.

**Peggy Golias** had a third back operation Tuesday at Kenmore Mercy.

**Rebecka Swindlehurst**, Maria's daughter, will have a procedure done July 23 at Roswell.

**Belinda Porter**, a friend of Maria Swindlehurst, has double pneumonia and was taken to ECMC and is on a vent.

**Wednesday Rahelich** had surgery recently. Let's pray for her well being.

**Michael Highway**, Anna Brink's nephew, was recently the victim of a drive-by shooting in Niagara Falls.

**Eric**, a 26 yr old co-worker of Rodney Jones, was hit by a pickup truck while walking in a pedestrian crosswalk and dragged 100 yards by a drunk driver Friday July 6 in front of Wegmans on Military Rd. He was flown to the hospital by Mercy Flight with multiple injuries.

**Martha**, a friend of Brenda Nelson, is doing worse health-wise.

### Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

**Jul. 15** **Today.** Men's Business Meeting

**Jul. 22-28** Camp Agape

**Jul. 29** Area Wide 5th Sunday Singing hosted by Sardinia church of Christ  
Also at Sardinia, "Mortgage Burning" celebration. See info on back table.

**Aug. 05** **Potluck** Groups 1, 2, & 3 to setup and cleanup.

**Aug. 5-11** Potter Mission Trip

Sun. AM Adult Bible Study Book of James

**Sermon Topic Today:** *Spiritual Discernment, Part 1*

**Scripture Reading:** *Matthew 23:25-32*

No Sun. PM Bible Study

Wed. PM Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel

### Notice: Phone Tree

An updated *Phone Tree* is available today.

It is dated July 15, 2018.

It is important to discard previously dated versions.



Smile and pay someone a compliment today.



### Thank You

Thanks to the ladies who did the weeding around the building recently.  
It looks good and is greatly appreciated.

### Moving

Sharron Gantt has plans to move to Independence, MO August 3rd.  
There will be a book going around over the next couple of weeks for members to write their best wishes in it for Sharron.  
We will miss you Sharron.

## Faith Is The Victory

### 1 John 5:4-5

<sup>4</sup> For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.

And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith.

<sup>5</sup> Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Over Doubt (Psalm 14:1; 1 Corinthians 15:19).

Over Materialism (Matthew 16:26; Luke 12:15).

Over Fear (1 John 4:18).

Over Immorality (1 John 2:15-17).

Over The Grave (1 Corinthians 15:42-55; John 11:25).

## TODAY

**Announcements** Ray McArthur

**Song Leader** Rodney Jones

**Direct Communion** Mark Dailey

**Serve** Ray McArthur

**Serve** Ron Cameron

**Serve** Doug Flanagan

**Clean Trays** Maria Swindlehurst



Read Me