

***Things That are Needed in the Church (I)***  
***Learning How to Worship***  
[www.cvillechurch.com](http://www.cvillechurch.com)

***Introduction:*** It has always been easy to substitute the outward for the inward.

- A. This was a major problem of the Pharisees. **(Mt 5:20; 6:1-7)**
  - 1. This switch did not occur overnight. There were steps to this kind of heart.
  - 2. Just like the Gentiles, the Pharisees had learned a kind of worship that left the heart untouched. **(Rom 1:20-22; Mt 15:8-9)**
  - 3. Anyone who learns this kind of "worship" will become in time an enemy of God while at the same time claim to worship God. **(Jn 16:1-3)**
- B. The study today will begin a four part series designed to focus on current problems facing the church.
  - 1. To a great extent this should be the focus of preaching. **(Titus 1:5)**
  - 2. Where do you stand? Please give attention to yourself alone and ask the same self-searching question the apostles did to Christ: "Lord, Is it I?" **(Mt 26:22)**

***I. The Evidences of Improper Worship and Their Fruit***

- A. Consider some things you will likely see in an assembly.
  - 1. Those who do not participate.
  - 2. Those whose minds are elsewhere.
    - a. Some will openly talk and laugh.
    - b. Others will bring work to do in the assembly.
  - 3. Those who do not attend.
    - a. Some will place even schoolwork and test above God.
    - b. Habitual tardiness may also be a symptom of a wrong attitude.
  - 4. Those who take nothing home with them.

“Many regular church attenders consistently focus their minds on sporting events, business affairs, or matters of personal interest as soon as the sermon begins. Many so-called worshipers can tell you what dress the preacher's wife wore in the service, but cannot recall the text of the sermon or the application of the message to their lives.”

- B. God has designed worship as the primary means of keeping our hearts right!
  - 1. God gives worship a very strong emphasis. **(Jn 4:23-24)**
  - 2. Why do many Christian's fail? Jesus pointed to the soil of our hearts. **(Lk 8:11-15)**
- C. The main reason there is weakness and carnality in the church is our failure to worship.
  - 1. Could we come to services and the end result be worse for us? **(1 Cor 11:17)**
  - 2. What does God see and think about our worship? **(1 Cor 11:27-31)**
  - 3. Occasionally I hear of a brother who had great Bible knowledge who fell into a web of sin. How did that happen? First look to his worship.

***II. Worship Must be Taught and Learned.***

- A. John the Baptist and Jesus knew their disciples must be taught. **(Lk 11:1)**
  - 1. They had already learned by the example of Jesus.

2. Jesus wanted them to know the character of God! (**Lk 11:5-13**)
  3. How do we teach others how to worship God???
- B. What is worship? **Proskuneo** προσκυνέω: to express by attitude and possibly by position one's allegiance to and regard for deity.
1. What does God see when you worship Him? What does He want? (**Mic 6:6-8**)
  2. True worship requires concentration and discipline. Worship is work!
- "If you can leave your church on Sunday morning with no feeling of discomfort, of conviction, of brokenness, of challenge, then for you the hour of worship has not been as dangerous as it should have been. The ease with which we go on being Christian sentimentalists is one of our worst faults."

### ***III. Worship Shows the Real Quality of Our Faith.***

- A. Often Jesus questioned His disciples if they "really believed." (**Jn 16:31**)
1. The "true worshipper" will go to God out of his own need, not because of the pressures or rewards of men.
  2. Jesus knew the real possibility of everyone falling away. He made this statement after a parable about prayer. (**Lk 18:8**)
- B. Consider two men who worshipped God: King Saul and King David.
1. Why did Saul want to worship? (**1 Sam 15:30**)
    - a. Did God accept his "worship?" (**1 Sam 15:35**)
    - b. When man is the center of worship it ceases to be worship.
  2. Why did David worship?
    - a. He went when no one else expected him. (**1 Sam 12:19-23**)
    - b. He worshiped when his heart was troubled. (**Psa 73:13-17**)

### ***IV. Things That Hinder Worship.***

- A. A lack of love for God. (**Mt 15:8-9**)
- B. A Bitterness towards men. (**Mt 5:22-25; 1 Pet 3:7**)
- C. An ignorance of God. (**Hos 4:6**)
- D. A Pride over one's "spirituality." (**Lk 18:9-14**)

### ***Conclusion:*** Where do you stand?

- A. If you have not been worshipping, what should you do?
1. The first steps to learning to worship occurs in your everyday life.

John R. W. Stott once admitted the truth that many of us have felt but failed to confess: "The thing I know will give me the deepest joy -- namely, to be alone and unhurried in the presence of God, aware of His presence, my heart open to worship Him -- is often the thing I least want to do."

2. What can you do to best improve your worship in the assemblies? (Ex. Where you sit.)
  3. For our own soul's sake, let us each develop a reverence for God. (**Heb 12:28-29**)
- B. What will heaven be like?