



## **CAYA SERIES: “WORSHIP: A LIFESTYLE EXPERIENCE”**

### **WEEK 5, LESSON 4 - “CORPORATE WORSHIP”**

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES (OBJECTIVES):**

The student will be able to. . .

- Examine the different aspects of the believer’s duty concerning worship
- Show how church attendance demonstrates our obedience to the command to love God
- Distinguish the various elements of corporate worship as it applies to the biblical model
- Describe the main idea behind the guiding principle of expressions during corporate worship and the opportunities it presents

#### **INTRODUCTION YOUTUBE VIDEO:**

“What is True Worship?” (4:12); Got Questions Ministries; 6/13/2018

#### **OUTLINE NOTES CONDENSED**

### **I. BIBLICAL MANDATE – HEBREWS 10:24, 25**

#### **a. Plurality**

*The Christian life was never meant to be solitary. There are no “lone wolves” in biblical Christianity. God did not design Christians to be completely independent of each other, however; he designed believers to need and encourage each other.*

#### **b. Duty of Worship**

*It means to give attention to; to fix our attention upon; to give continuous care; to watch over.*

##### **i. To stir up**

*This means to “stimulate strongly,” “arouse,” or “incite to riot.”*

##### **ii. To do good works**

*These are works done for the good of others, and which attract others to Christ*

**iii. To assemble together**

*Believers also must not give up meeting together; never to forsake our assembling, not even to neglect it for a brief time. This is the meaning of this exhortation. Believers are to assemble together for worship, for prayer, for the study of God's Word and for ministry and witnessing*

**iv. To encourage**

*These words reveal that Christians are responsible for each other. Christians cannot be concerned just for their own spiritual well-being; they must also encourage others to keep fervent in their love and active in their service to God.*

**II. REASONS FOR CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

**a. Prevents and Promotes**

**i. Backsliding and apostasy**

*Without regular participation in corporate worship, one tends to drift spiritually*

**ii. Fellowship and encouragement**

*The fellowship (koinonia) means association and close relationships. This was more than just getting together, certainly more than just a religious meeting. It involved sharing goods, having meals together, and praying together.*

**iii. Spiritual union**

*Spiritual participation is based upon a spiritual union wrought by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is within the Christian believer. The Holy Spirit creates a spiritual union by melting and molding the heart of the Christian believer to the hearts of other believers. He attaches the life of one believer to the lives of other believers. Through the Spirit of God, believers become one in life and purpose.*

**b. Public Demonstration**

*If we're regular church attendees, we publicly demonstrate our obedience to the command to love God. Regular church attendance also shows support for the work of God in the world. When we attend corporate worship, we hear the public preaching of the Word of God. Substituting a media ministry (radio or television) not only removes the immediacy of public preaching, but also fosters disloyalty to the church and a sense of isolation.*

**III. ELEMENTS OF CORPORATE WORSHIP**

**a. Acknowledgement**

*Within our corporate worship we must open the eyes of the believers to recognize the ways that God has made Himself apparent through Scripture and through His son Jesus Christ. We worship God in response to that which he has revealed about himself.*

**b. Devotion**

*We can come to an understanding of the essential role of adoration for God by his creations. In a church or formal gathering of worshipers, the believers must devote themselves to a period of purely praising God for who He is and what He has done for His children. Worship is for God.*

**c. Confession and Forgiveness**

*In the gathering of believers, we must recognize our individual wretched state and the condition of our people as a whole. After praising God for who He really is, the confession of who we really are is a humbling and natural progression. So, then the Christians need to progress to a place of embracing the forgiveness he is given by the Holy God.*

**d. Proclamation – II Timothy 4:2**

*Paul instructed Timothy to preach the Word, explaining and applying the Scriptures for God’s people. Teaching refers to training in Christian doctrine. The people needed to know, understand, and constantly be reminded of the great truths of the Christian faith. In addition to reading the Scripture, Timothy was to exhort, that is, to warn, advise, and urge his listeners regarding the words of Scripture, helping them apply those words to their daily lives.*

**e. Commissioning**

*We need to respond the God’s commissioning of all His children for the spread of His Glory through evangelization, discipleship and service.*

**f. Scripture Reading – I Timothy 4:13**

*Historically, the public reading of Scripture, mandated in I Timothy 4:13, has served as a scriptural call to worship—a reminder the church has gathered to hear from God.*

**g. Songs**

*Prescribed in Ephesians 5:19, 20 and Colossians 3:16, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs have always marked the worship of God’s people. Singing to the Lord and to one another conveys truth set to music. Grounded in God’s Word and correct doctrine, music can be an important part of Christian worship and education. A Spirit-filled person has a singing spirit. The mention of singing is the picture of joy and happiness. Note a crucial point: singing to oneself helps a person to experience the fullness of the Spirit. The song itself becomes a tool or a vehicle of worship to God. Worship takes on a deeper meaning to God because of the authentic expressions of our heart, mind and spirit.*

**h. Prayer – I Timothy 2:1**

*Whether praying for one’s nation and governmental leaders, the infirmed, the church’s ministries, the lost, or for God’s blessing on the service, every time God’s people gather their prayers are to be offered. Worship is a response to God. Prayer, like song, becomes the vehicle. We give God thanks because of who He is and what He has done and is continuing to do.*

**i. Offerings**

*Part of true biblical worship is giving an offering, as Paul instructed the Corinthian church 1 Corinthians 16:1–2. Our regular giving for the support of the Lord’s work is a serious responsibility. The opportunity to give should be viewed as a thrilling blessing. Additionally, freewill giving is the only explicitly biblical method for financing the work of the church.*

**j. The Ordinances**

*Additionally, observing the ordinances are always welcome when an individual is ready for baptism as a powerful response to the change that Christ has effected in the believer’s life or the church elects to celebrate the Lord’s Supper, "the breaking of bread" that were celebrated in remembrance of Jesus and patterned after the Last Supper.*

**IV. PROPRIETY IN WORSHIP**

**a. Worship and Obedience**

*Worship and obedience are inseparable. The primary evidence of what is in the heart is not our words or emotions but our deeds. God’s moral law (the 10 Commandments) may be properly understood as a call to live all of life for the glory of God.*

**b. Pride and Disorder**

*Pride was a pervasive problem in the church of Corinth. Some of the Corinthians boasted of the eloquence or wisdom of their favorite leaders. Some were arrogant about their liberation from old-fashioned morality. Others were proud of their ability to remain celibate. Still others were puffed up about their knowledge and freedom to eat anything and attend any pagan function without defilement or temptation. From 11:2 through 14:40, the issues all revolve around disorder in public worship, and the root of the disorders is consistently pride.*

**The Lord's Supper and Services**

*The early Church held a full meal along with the Lord's Supper. It was called the agape ("love feast" in Jude 12). It was supposed to be like a potluck dinner, with each member bringing something to share. However, it seems that in Corinth, the rich were arriving early with the fine meats and wines they were used to, and going ahead without the rest. The poorer members arrived later when they had gotten off work. They had to make do with the scanty food they were able to bring. The point is that various activities can happen in corporate worship. While all of this occurs, however, everything that is done must be useful to all and build them up in the Lord. Also, all believers should show love (chapter 13), and everything should edify (14:1-25).*

**c. Expression**

*Worship may be accompanied by affections but not guided by them. Certainly, our worship of God ought to engage the affections. But we must always remember that emotions are tricky things susceptible to manipulation and misguidance. Perhaps this idea of raising your hands in worship is foreign to you. It's not in your background. You're not used to it, and it doesn't feel natural. You don't want to feel pressured to raise your hands. It's not you. All of that is understandable, but there is more to be said. Deep down, there are times when you want to lift your hands to God. There are times when you want to raise your hands to God above because this is the natural expression of joy and worship in your heart. Your hands want to fly up to heaven, or you want to clap, stand, kneel, or dance. You want to express with all you are—heart, voice and body—what you feel inside, the depths of your praise and joy. We want to give expression to the feelings of our hearts. It's completely normal and appropriate. It's the way God made us. Don't feel pressured. Do feel free. Give full voice to the praise and joy that you feel in your heart. Christian life and ministry should be viewed as a way of serving God.*

#### **d. Worship Circle**

*In other words, our responses of worship to God are both personal and corporate. And each kind of response is intertwined with the other. Through Christ we've been reconnected to God, and in Him we're linked to each other. Each one of us plays a unique role. A part of your worship is to make a connection with other believers around you. The primary purpose of the church (the people of God) is worship. At its core, the church exists to glorify God. And without your life and voice, the body's expression is incomplete. But even in the corporate setting, worship doesn't begin with a group activity. It begins with our individual responses to what God has revealed to us about Himself. As we come together with other believers in worship, we bring that same sense of focus we've had in our daily journey. We bring that same determined devotion.*

#### **e. Focus and Perspective**

*Worship isn't about you, or the band, or the songs that you're singing. It's about carving out time in our busy lives and responding to who God is and what He's done for us. It's about a deep, inner spirit response. Worship doesn't always mean singing at the top of your lungs, out of tune, like the old person behind you. It can be about just entering into His presence and giving Him what you have. People who emphasize that they are "going to church to worship God" tend to disregard what the NT says about the purpose of the Christian assembly. If Christians are meant to worship God in every sphere of life, it cannot be worship as such that brings them to church. Such worship will find expression in deeds of love and various forms of ministry to others, as well as in prayer, praise and confessions of faith. The Christian gathering ought to focus on the finished work of Christ, the needs of His people as they seek to serve Him in the present, the resources that*

*are available from our heavenly high priest for running the Christian race, and the joyful hope of sharing with Him in the perfection of "the world to come."*

### **INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY**

1. Brainstorm Excuses people give for not going to church
2. "Why go to church?" Given the following bible verses, brainstorm the reasons people should go to church
  - Psalm 95:6
  - Colossians 1:10
  - Acts 2:42
  - Hebrews 10:24-25
  - Ephesians 4:11-13
  - Galatians 5:13
  - 1 Peter 4:10

## [Small Group Activity]

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### **BREAKOUT QUESTIONS**

1. What insight/revelation/understanding did you receive from memorizing Hebrews 13:15? What version did you memorize the verse from?
2. What are your reactions to the video?
3. What are some of the problems of not understanding the aspects of the biblical mandate to worship?
4. What factors should be considered when deciding to attend church?
5. Predict what makes a good corporate worship experience based upon the elements observed.
6. Evaluate the idea of the Worship Circle giving freedom to worship. How would this prevent pride from taking center stage?

## [Follow-up Home Assignment]

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### **DIRECTIONS:**

Imagine that Jesus shows up at church every single Sunday. He's never sick, tired, late, bored, or absent. He slips in and humbly takes the place that no one else would want. He waits for us to recognize him, to think about him, to welcome him, and say to him in prayer, "Jesus, you take the best seat in the house—I want to worship you!" What would happen in our service if so many people prayed that way that Jesus suddenly allowed us to see him?

We worship God in response to that which he has revealed about himself. Use the rock with the given name of Jesus that you chose as a launching point to praise Him.

### **THINK ABOUT IT:**

What can you do next Sunday to insure a proper attitude in your worship? How can you improve your preparation for church services?

### **Review Hebrews 13:15, Colossians 3:1, 2, and John 4:23, 24**

### **NEW MEMORY VERSE – 1 PETER 2:5**

Write out the verse on the index card in any version. Write on the back of the card, any revelation or insight God gives you as you meditate on the verses for the week.