

BIBLICAL INGREDIENTS FOR BIBLICAL WORSHIP

STUDENT GUIDE

DAILY BIBLE READING

DAY 1	I CORINTHIANS II: 1-16
DAY 2	I CORINTHIANS II: 17-34
DAY 3	I CORINTHIANS II: 1-34
DAY 4	I CORINTHIANS II: 1-16
DAY 5	I CORINTHIANS II: 17-34
DAY 6	I CORINTHIANS II: 1-34
DAY 7	I CORINTHIANS II: 1-34

Worship is the glue that holds the church of Jesus Christ together. In the New Testament, the church publicly assembled to praise the Lord God. Indeed the Greek word for church is "ecclesia" which means "assembly" or "called out ones."

Chapter 11 gives Christians an idea about the ingredients required to make worship beautiful. No congregation on record experienced more division, difficulty, and doctrinal deviance in Paul's day than the Corinthians. We observe first-hand in the second half of chapter 11 the sad example of bad worship, rather than beautiful worship.

OUTLINE

- 1. What Makes for Proper Worship? (vv. 1-16)** - When Paul begins to speak about worship beginning with the ordinances of the church — he immediately begins to reveal what makes for beautiful worship (vv. 2-3)
 - A.) The first Biblical ingredient for proper worship is headship. Twice in verse 3 Paul mentions the term "head." Occurring often in Scripture, the term "head" refers to *authority*. In fact, there is a three-fold authority revealed. Paul says, "the head of Christ is God." Paul says, "the head of every man is Christ" (vv. 3,7). What Paul further states about headship has become very controversial. He states that not only is Christ the head of every man, but man is the head of woman (v.3). Admittedly, the idea of headship in gender issues is not a popular position in many circles, even among conservative Christians. Nevertheless, we are persuaded God's Word must never become a compromised document in any sense whatsoever.*
 - B.) The second Biblical ingredient for proper worship is partnership (vv. 8-9). Men and women in church are involved in partnership expressed in *creation*. The woman was formed out of man, deriving her origin from him. Hence, she and he were made for different roles and purposes. In addition, the partnership between man and woman is expressed in *submission* (v.10). Finally, partnership is also expressed in *cooperation* (vv. 11-12). Men and women are mutually dependent in God's work.*
 - C.) The third Biblical ingredient for proper worship is trusteeship (vv. 13-16). Proper appearance and apparel are a testimony to the unsaved. When believers go against normal standards of modesty and appropriateness they lose their testimony before the church and the world.*

2. What Makes for Poor Worship? (vv. 17-34) — Paul takes the second half of chapter 11 and reveals clearly what makes for poor worship.

A.) *Presence of Desecration (vv. 18-22)* - The Lord Jesus gave two formal ordinances the church was to observe — baptism and the Lord's Supper. Sounds pretty simple, doesn't it? However, even with just two ordinances, we have historically shown a patten of abuse.

B.) *Absence of Explanation (vv. 23-26)* - In their flurry to eat, drink and be merry, the Corinthians ignored the purpose of celebrating the Lord's Supper. Unless the symbols were empowered with content, the next generation of believers would fail to connect the spiritual dots. One lost generation could jeopardize the spiritual health of the entire church on earth.

C.) *Failure for Preparation (27-34)* - Thus far, we see bad worship desecrates the Lord Jesus, and does so by failing to explain the beauty of the ordinances God has given. How does one prepare to worship? First, one prepares to worship by *examination (vv. 27-32)*. Once we understand our worthiness is because of Jesus, we may properly "examine" ourselves. This is a somber time of self-reflection. This is a time to expose oneself to the surgical knife of God's Word. In fact, if one refuses to examine oneself, an open door to danger stands wide open for the child of God (v. 30).

Worship is mean to be a family thing, a community experience. It's not that we cannot worship alone. Indeed we are summoned to enter our prayer closets and be alone with God to commune with Him there. However, we are also warned not to neglect our coming together (Heb. 10:25).

Wrap Up: *Worship is meant to be the most beautiful experience God's people enjoy. And, when we have our authority (headship), our ministry (partnership), and our testimony (trusteeship) in proper perspective, worship is proper and beautiful. It is when we allow desecration to take place through disunity, ignorance, and a lack of preparation that beautiful worship becomes bad worship.*