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GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 59
EPHESIANS 5:19-21

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EPHESIANS 5:19-21 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

Anyone who learns Bible doctrine learns how to worship. Learning how to worship is always the result of building an edification complex in the soul.

EPHESIANS 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" Worship must begin with inhale--taking in doctrine as it is imparted by the pastor-teacher. Worship is an exhale, but before there can be an exhale, there has to be an inhale. This flowing in of truth is called in the Greek New Testament by the word "gnosis." Then once you get the truth in your soul, you transfer it into your human spirit and it becomes "epignosis." It is out of this "epignosis" this residual doctrine in your human spirit that you are capable of worship. Just because you are present in a service doesn't mean that you worship. To dress up and look nice and pious doesn't mean you worship. A certain solemn expression, or a certain awesome feeling of ecstasies doesn't mean worship. Dressing in black and going through certain gymnastics or closing your eyes or kneeling or looking intently at the preacher doesn't necessarily mean you are worshipping.

Real Worship

Genuine worship depends on how much residual doctrinal truth you have deposited from your soul into your human spirit. It is out of this supply in your human spirit that you can worship. Now the natural man, the ordinary man, the sinful man is not capable of worship.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Two Kinds Of Worship

There is personal worship and then there is assembly worship. In both instances inhale must proceed exhale. Therefore, the work of the Holy Spirit in your life is necessary if genuine worship is to be a reality to you. If you want a formula for worship this is it--The inhale of truth which makes possible the exhale plus the infilling of the Holy Spirit and this equals worship.

Notice the words "speaking to yourselves." Now this doesn't mean the kind of "speaking to ourselves" that we sometimes do in church. Like such as, "Doesn't he know that football game is coming on! Doesn't he know that that cafeteria line gets awfully long after twelve o'clock!" Now that is not meant here by "speaking to yourselves." This word "speaking" is a present, active, participle of "laleo" and it means "always keep on speaking to yourself." The Pastor-teacher speaks doctrinal truth, then your mind picks it up, and the Holy Spirit takes it and interprets it to you and you speak it to yourself. Authoritative teaching is always monologue. Please notice, it is not dialogue.

HEBREWS 13:7 "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."

HEBREWS 13:17 "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13 "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you: And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

So "speaking among yourselves" is the pastor-teacher giving out truth, doctrinal truth. You pick it up and the Holy Spirit aids you as you speak it to yourself. Look at these words.

"Laleo" means communication. "Karuso" means to preach. "Didasko" means the teaching of a group. Put them together and it means to teach with authority. To teach so the hearer has his privacy.

WHAT IS NUMBER ONE ON THE ITEMS FOR WORSHIP? IT IS THE AUTHORITATIVE TEACHING OF BIBLE DOCTRINE.

In this verse before us, we read that we are to be taught by means of "Psalms". This comes from "Psalmos" and this means speaking, not singing. It is in the instrumental case and it means learning scripture verse by verse in doctrinal study.

Now we come to the singing part and the word is "ado" and it is a present, active, participle. They had teaching first and then singing. We have singing first and then teaching. We have just turned it around. They sang in happiness and appreciation for the doctrinal truth they had received. They had hymns and spiritual songs. The word for hymns comes from the word "humneo" or "humnos" and it means to celebrate a victory. So a hymn is something that celebrates a victory. Like the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." The "Hallelujah Chorus" has celebration in it. The word translated "spiritual songs" is "pneumaticos" and it means a song that has dignity and style and nobility of sentiment. This is something we have learned through grace perception. So both "laleo" and "Ado" are built on doctrine. Hymns and spiritual songs are singing to honor God with doctrinal truth.

"Making melody" is not correctly translated. It comes from "Psallo" and is a present, active, participle and it means to accompany the singing with a musical instrument. This is a verse that, if correctly translated, will forever do away with that silly idea that you should not have musical instruments in the church. "Making melody" is a technical term for organ, piano, or other musical instruments. People who object to musical instruments being used in the church just don't know the scripture.

A Bit Of Bible History

There is a certain delineation between the Old and New Testaments at this point. In Old Testament times certain sections of the Tribe of Levi were under divine discipline, and God compensated for this discipline by giving certain ones of them beautiful voices. Generation after generation, they were born with beautiful voices. They sang

in choirs and they sang special musical numbers. But here in this New Testament passage, the emphasis is on the singing of all believers. But if they have no doctrine in their minds, then their singing is to no avail. It is not worship. The Bible recognizes musical talent as subservient to doctrinal truth. When you have doctrine in the soul, then you sing as unto the Lord. Good talent and poor talent and all in between and it all mingles together as praise to God. When you know the Lord, you celebrate in singing and playing musical instruments. "In your heart" means "by means of your mind" and this implies training. You don't ask a plumber or a road paver to walk up there and play the organ. (Or I sure hope you don't!) This kind of work involves the thinking part of the mind and the discipline it takes to make melody in your heart.

So get the emphasis right here. Every rehearsal and every hour of preparation for the musical part of the service is scriptural and proper. And this is the very reason why we are getting ready to rebuild our organ in the church auditorium for singing and playing is a vital part of our worship. Notice--it is toward the Lord--it is an exhale toward the Lord.

Now let's get a correct translation of verse 19. "Communicating among yourselves by means of doctrinal teaching (psalms), and singing hymns and spiritual odes and playing instruments by means of your study and training and all of this is to be done directly toward the Lord."

EPHESIANS 5:20 "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Now thanksgiving is an expression of all these means of worship. Thanksgiving is an expression toward God of the residual doctrine in your heart. Giving thanks in every way in everything unto God, even the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

EPHESIANS 5:21 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Now we must have authority in all of this. It says, "Keep on being subordinate" (the congregation) the one to the other. "Hupotas-so" is a military term. "Hupo" means "under" and "tasso" means "in ranks." The primary function of a church is the teaching of Bible truth. So it simply means this--The Pastor stands under the authority of the Word of God. The members of the congregation stand under the authority of the Pastor as truth is passed from him to them. And all of them are in fellowship with each other, all of them under the divine authority of God. The word here translated fear of the Lord is "Phobos" and it means "respect" under the authority of the Lord.

THE DOCTRINE OF AUTHORITY

1. The basic authority for the human race is the Bible, the Word of God. This is the authority of God in your life, Bible doctrine.
2. The authority of the local church is the Pastor, the communicator of doctrine.