

TRUE WORSHIP (IV): *LORD'S SUPPER*

Introduction

- 1) Man is an emotional being – created in the image of God (Phil. 4:4)
 - a) Emotions can be wonderful or dangerous, depending on how we use them (Jas. 1:19-20)
- 2) Life can become an emotional “roller coaster” – God will help us keep an “even keel”
- 3) Our worship will, and should, involve our emotions
 - a) If God wanted emotionless robots to worship Him, He would have created them
 - b) God expects and wants our emotions to be involved in our worship – *singing, prayer, preaching, giving, Lord's Supper* – all involve rational actions and elicit emotional responses
- 4) Let us give careful attention to our emotions in worship, especially in the Lord's Supper

I) **Emotions and Worship**

- A) **John 4:24** – true worship is to be offered to God “in spirit and truth”
 - 1) **Spirit** – proper spiritual attitude and spiritual worship (not carnal ordinances [OT] Heb. 9:10)
- B) Must maintain a reverential and sincere offering of worship from the heart unto God
 - 1) Our spirit must approach God as He would desire, not in ways that appeal to us
 - 2) As we worship in truth, our divinely given emotions are stirred in a godly manner
 - 3) Emotions do not guide our worship, but result from obeying God's word (Acts 8:39)
- C) A departure from a proper spirit can lead to a worship directed by “emotionalism”
 - 1) Many have gone to an entertainment and secular “pep rally” style of worship
 - 2) Objective is to get past the perceived boring “formalism” of “traditional worship”
 - 3) This stimulation of emotion is falsely attributed to the “presence” of the Holy Spirit
 - 4) Also sought by outward stimuli: holding hands, dimming lights, candles, outdoors, etc.
- D) Some of our strongest emotions will be stirred in the partaking of the Lord's Supper
 - 1) A remembrance of our Savior's death on the cross (must understand to partake properly)
 - a) **Understanding** the reality of the violence and horror of Jesus' death (Matt. 27:26, 35)
 - b) **Realizing** that our sins required this sacrifice of God's Son (1 Pet. 3:18; Rom. 5:10)
 - c) **Knowing** that God loved us and gave His Son for our sins (Rom. 5:8; Jn. 3:16)
 - d) **Rejoicing** in our forgiveness and redemption and reconciliation in Christ (Rom. 5:11)

II) **Lord's Supper**

- A) The **Lord's Supper** is a very important act of worship in the local church (Acts 2:42)
 - 1) A time of **communion** with the Lord and one another in a spiritual feast (1 Cor. 10:16-17)
 - 2) Only those in Christ have a right to fellowship in His Supper at His table (v. 21)
- B) Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:19-20)
 - 1) We use the same elements – unleavened bread, fruit of the vine
 - a) Memorial of the body and blood of our crucified Savior (“do in remembrance of Me”)
- C) Time and purpose given by apostolic example and teaching
 - 1) **Time of partaking** – first day of the week (Acts 20:7; each first day necessarily implied)
 - a) Done when church comes together in assembly (see also 1 Cor. 11:20)
 - 2) **Purpose** – remembrance of Christ and proclaim His death till He comes (1 Cor. 11:23-26)
 - a) Beware of partaking in “unworthy manner” – not discern His body (vv. 27-29)
- D) Ironically, many controversies have arisen over a subject which should unify us
 - 1) Most should not rise to level of division of brethren (e.g. Sunday evening communion)
 - 2) Unless change elements, day, or meaning (e.g. Thursday communion, transubstantiation)

Conclusion

The **Lord's Supper** is a wonderful and solemn remembrance by the saved of their Savior and His sacrifice! Let us carefully, thoughtfully, and joyfully partake together in spirit and truth, publicly proclaiming His death until He comes.