

HOW YOU OUGHT TO CONDUCT YOURSELF IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

(1 Tim. 3:14, 15)

Introduction:

1. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy how he ought to conduct himself in the house of God, the church. He wrote about not becoming discouraged in the face of apostasy but remain faithful; he wrote about the different roles in the church; he wrote about the example Christians are to be to one another; he wrote about how we ought to interact with one another; and closed with another admonition to remain faithful in the face of unfaithful brethren.
2. Let us this morning consider what the Bible has to teach us about how we ought to conduct ourselves in the assembly of God. Let's examine the purpose of worship and some warnings about worship.

Discussion:

I. Purpose.

A. Why we worship.

1. Because we can!
 - a. The unbelievable honor (1 John 3:1).
 - b. Expression of our love for God (Ps. 122:1; 1 John 4:19; Gal. 2:20; 1 Tim. 1:17).
 - c. A taste of heaven on earth (Matt. 26:29; praising God with our Lord Heb. 2:12: talking with God = prayer and Bible study; imitating God and working with Him = giving).
2. Because it is commanded (John 4:23, 24; Acts 2:42; Luke 22:19; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:17; 2 Cor. 9:7).

B. How we worship.

1. Four types of worship mentioned in the bible.
 - a. Will worship (1 Kings 12:33).
 - b. Vain worship (Matt. 15:9).
 - c. False worship (John 4:23).
 - d. True worship (John 4:23).
2. In spirit and truth (John 4:24).
 - a. As God has clearly revealed.
 - i. Lord's Supper (Matt. 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; 1 Cor. 11).
 - ii. Prayer (throughout the pages of the NT but especially 1 Thess. 5:17).
 - iii. Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
 - iv. Giving (2 Cor. 9:7; 1 Cor. 16:1, 2).
 - v. Bible study (2 Tim. 2:15; Eph. 4:12-16; 2 Thess. 1:8).
 - b. With loving thankfulness = eager, excited, and energetic! Heb. 10:19-22.

II. Warning.

A. Should we worship?

1. If we are not going to worship God in truth then we might reconsider whether we should worship at all (Gen. 3; 4; Ex. 32; 1 Kings 13:34; Mal. 2:1-12).
2. If we are not going to worship God in spirit then we might reconsider whether we should worship at all (Is. 1; Matt. 15:9; Rev. 3:16).

B. The fate of stumbling blocks (Matt. 18:6).

1. What should we expect if we interfere with the worship of God's people?
2. What should we expect if we profane God and His glory?
3. What should we expect if we worship God casually, occasionally, or grudgingly?

Conclusion:

1. Such an honor has been offered to us. Let us draw near with loving thankfulness as often as we can. If we want to spend our eternity in heaven, then the assembly of God's people here in the flesh ought to be the closest we come to achieving our greatest desire. And, thus should be cherished (Heb. 13:1-17).

2. Our desire for heaven is equal to our desire for the assembly/worship of God; whether that is a good thing or bad is our choice and apparent to all. Choose well, enjoy the fruit of your choice, taste the fruit of that choice, and live in anticipation of the full realization of the fruit of that choice!
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “HOW YOU OUGHT TO CONDUCT YOURSELF IN THE HOUSE OF GOD”

1. With fear (Ex. 20:20; Ps. 2:11; 5:7; Prov. 1:7, 29 = 2:5; 9:10; 15:33; Eccl. 12:13, 14; Acts 2:43; 5:11; 9:31; 19:17; Rom. 3:18; 2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 5:18-21; Phil. 2:12; every encounter with Deity in the Bible).
2. With reverence (Lev. 10:3; 19:30; 26:2; Heb. 12:28).
3. Mindfully. We need to understand what we are doing, to whom we are doing it, and be doing it with all of our heart and soul (John 4:23, 24).
4. What do we do about those around us who are not worshipping God in this manner?

- Children will be children but they are to be actively trained not accommodated/enabled (Eph. 5:4; Prov. 22:6; Deut. 6, esp. vv 7).

- What about other people's children, or adults? There's a verse for that (Titus 2:1-8; 1 Thess. 5:12-14; 2 Thess. 3:14, 15; et al).

- And don't forget the overarching instruction of our Lord in Matt. 18:15-20.

V15 “sin” in NKJV/ESV/ASV/RV/NASB (trespass in KJV) = *hamartia* = to miss the mark, to err, to be mistaken. Compare 1 Pet. 2:20 (faults) and Acts 25:8 (offended). Thus if your brother offends you or has faulted/done wrong (NIV) you are to go (imperative mood) to him and tell him. If he will not listen, then take 1 or 2 others with you (why? Read verses 18-20 = authority given to the church by the Lord). If he will not listen to them then he is to be put out of the assembly as an erring brother!!

5. The worship of God is serious business. God judges us by our actions and our manner. God is looking for those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. Will we? Proper worship produces proper living which produces heaven-bound saints.