

Why Be A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

Because It Is Scriptural In Worship

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Spring 2012 Gospel Meeting

Overview

- Worship Practices of Those Outside the Church of Christ
- Worship Practices of the Members of the Church of Christ
- Is it Scriptural?
- Conclusion

Worship Practices of Those Outside the Church of Christ

- **Roman Catholics**
 - Known as Mass
- **Liturgy of the Word**
 - Penitential Rite
 - Prayers
 - Reading of designated passage of the day
 - Reading from the Gospel
 - Homily
 - Prayers of the Faithful

Worship Practices of Those Outside the Church of Christ

- **Liturgy of the Eucharist**
 - Collection of monetary offerings
 - Water, wine, and unconsecrated hosts brought to altar
 - Wine is poured into chalice. Drops of water into wine
 - Lifts hosts above altar as an offering to God
 - Sanctus is sung
 - Congregation kneels for the consecration
 - Singing of Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)
 - Kneel in prayer and line up to partake

Worship Practices of Those Outside the Church of Christ

- **Liturgy of the Eucharist (continued)**
 - Priest partakes first
 - Congregation approach and are given a consecrated Host
 - *Sometimes* offered a sip of the Precious Blood
 - Before receiving, a Catholic must make a sign of reverence (i.e., bow of the head, sign of the cross, genuflection, kneeling, etc.)
 - Return to their seats and pray silently before sitting down
- **Mass ends with a blessing and a message to spread the Word of God and put it in practice**

Worship Practices of Those Outside the Church of Christ

- **Baptists**
 - "No matter what the venue might be, there are only two basic ingredients that Baptists include in their corporate worship. Any attempt to separate soul-stirring gospel music from the priority of preaching God's Word is not even a consideration. Whether it is singing Amazing Grace accompanied only by a piano in a little country church or along with a seventy-voice choir and orchestra in a large city church, music is essential in preparing the hearts of the congregation to receive the Bible-centered message from the man of God."

-allaboutbaptists.com

Worship Practices of Those Outside the Church of Christ

- **Traditional Service**
 - “With regards to music, they enjoy hymns of the faith accompanied by a piano or an organ. There will typically be a “special”, which refers to a solo or small group of musical presentation or perhaps even the choir. A southern style gospel quartet fits very well in this type of venue.”
-allaboutbaptists.com

Worship Practices of Those Outside the Church of Christ

- **Contemporary Service**
 - “Two electric six-string guitars, a bass guitar, a digital electronic keyboard, and a set of drums flank the pulpit. The choruses are flashed up on to the angled walls to the sides of the stage. A congregation of younger people stand to their feet and enthusiastically sing out their worship to God accompanied by hand-clapping, applause, and raising their hands in praise. The music is loud but so are the worshippers as they join in...This is a dress-down form of worship. The pastor is dressed very casual. He may even be wearing a polo shirt and a pair of jeans. The message is geared around one point and is heavily supplemented [sic] with visuals. Video cams flash images of him as he preaches along with scanning the worshippers throughout the entire service. The Biblical topics are very contemporary and the preaching style is a combination of passion, instruction, and challenge. The invitation at the conclusion of the service is more upbeat and personal workers stand ready to take seekers to side rooms for counseling.”
-allaboutbaptists.com

Worship Practices of Those Outside the Church of Christ

- **Blended Service**
 - “The pianist is center stage behind the pulpit. Instead of an organ, a digital keyboardist is surrounded by a lead guitarist, bass guitar player, drums, and perhaps some brass horns. Replacing the song leader, the pianist or one of the other instrumentalist may very well be the worship leader. A combination of traditional hymns and contemporary praise choruses which are flashed up on the screens. The choir presentations are more upbeat. The selections are geared to be in keeping with the pastor’s message, thus, preparing the people to receive the Word...”

Worship Practices of Those Outside the Church of Christ

- **Blended Service (continued)**
 - “...Shedding his suit and tie, the pastor is dressed “business casual.” Having grasped the concept of our living in a very visualized generation, he uses modern day audio-visual equipment to add to his preaching. Video cams follow him as he preaches so that attendees can see him larger than life on the screens. His message might even include a short video presentation to illustrate the point of his message. In fact, the Bible verses used throughout the message are shown on the screens throughout the message. His style is a blend of preaching and teaching. Humor punctuates the seriousness of the topic being discussed. The preaching is clear, crisp, and contemporary. An invitation is extended to seekers who may pray along the front of the stage or are greeted by personal workers who use various side rooms to counsel [sic] those who respond. Souls are saved and lives are changed.”
-allaboutbaptists.com

Worship Practices of Those Outside the Church of Christ

- “It is rare to find a Baptist church where the Lord’s Supper is observed every Sunday; most observe monthly or quarterly, with some holding Communion only during a designated Communion service or following a worship service.”
-en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucharist

Worship Practices of Those Outside the Church of Christ

- **From onlinebaptist.com-“Lord’s Supper: How often does your church observe?”**
 - “We observe the Lord’s Supper 3 times per year, we serve it only to members of our local church. As for how many times per year, we feel that is left up to the local church, what ever they chose is fine with me.”
 - “I’m not sure. We’ve been attending our IFB church for about two months and I haven’t seen it yet ~ although, I think they may do it at the evening service and we haven’t been to a lot of those yet, just the mornings.”

Worship Practices of Those Outside the Church of Christ

- From onlinebaptist.com-“Lord’s Supper: How often does your church observe?”
 - “I voted ‘other’ because we don’t have a set time for observing. We have it when our pastor believes we need it as a church. He wants us to use that time for examining ourselves, but not in a ritualistic way. We do have it at least once a year.”
 - “I chose other because we do it whenever the Lord tells [the] Pastor to have us do it.”
 - “We do it as my husband sees fit, maybe 4x/year.”

Worship practices of the members of the Church of Christ

- Opening prayer
- Congregational singing
- Observance of the Lord’s Supper
 - Done every Sunday
- Opportunity to give of our means
- Reading of the Scripture
- A sermon from the Word of God
- Closing prayer

Is it Scriptural?

- Penitential Rite
 - “It is a rather surprising fact to many that, strictly speaking, there is no history to the penitential rite in the Mass prior to Vatican II [which occurred in 1962-1965]. The inclusion of the penitential rite as a communal gesture is an innovation in the new order of the mass.” - <http://blog.adw.org/2009/05/the-mass-in-slow-motion-the-penitential-rite/>.
- Possible Origins
 - James 5:16; 1 John 1:9; Acts 17:30

No evidence of congregational confession of sins in the first century worship practice

Is it Scriptural?

- Central Catholic authority
- Was there any practice of this in the first century church?
 - 1 Pet 5:1-3
 - “shepherd the flock of God among you”

No scriptural authority for central organization

Is it Scriptural?

- Transubstantiation is not found in the Bible
- Based on Matt 26: 26-28
 - Similar in language to Matt 13: 31, 33, 44, and 47
 - Albert Barnes says: “The language employed by the Saviour was in accordance with a common mode of speaking among the Jews, and exactly similar to that used by Moses at the institution of the Passover in Exo_12:11; ‘It’ - that is, the lamb - ‘is the Lord’s Passover.’ That is, the lamb and the feast ‘represent’ the Lord’s ‘passing over’ the houses of the Israelites. It serves to remind you of it. It surely cannot be meant that that lamb was the literal ‘passing over’ their houses - a palpable absurdity - but that it represented it. So Paul and Luke say of the bread, ‘This is my body broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.’ This expresses the whole design of the bread. It is to call to ‘remembrance,’ in a vivid manner, the dying sufferings of our Lord.

No scriptural examples of transubstantiation.

Is it Scriptural?

- Instrumental Music
- Old Testament used as justification
 - 1 Chron 23:5; 2 Chron 7:6; 29:25
 - Psalms
- New Testament teaches differently
 - Eph 5:19; 1 Cor 14:15; Col 3:16

No scriptural authority found for instrumental music.

Is it Scriptural?

- Lord's Supper
- What does the Bible say?
 - Acts 20:7- "On the **first** day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread..."
- Not explicitly told to remember "every Sabbath of each week"

Quarterly, monthly, or any observance other than every first day of the week is not scriptural.

Is it Scriptural?

- **Singing**
 - No mechanical instrument
 - Eph 5:19; 1 Cor 14:15; Col 3:16
 - Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
- **Praying**
 - Acts 4:23-24, 31; Acts 12:5, 12; Acts 20:36; 1 Cor 14:16
- **Partaking of the Lord's Supper**
 - Every Sunday- 1Cor 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **Read and hearing lessons from the Word of God**
 - Col 4:16; 1 Tim 4:13; Acts 20:7; 2 Tim 4:2-4; Rom 10:14,15
- **Giving of our means**
 - 1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 8:3; 9:7

Conclusion

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scriptural worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Singing ○ Praying ○ Partaking of the Lord's Supper ○ Read from the Word of God ○ Preaching from the Word of God ○ Giving of our means 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unscriptural worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Penitential Rite ○ Central authority ○ Transubstantiation ○ Instrumental Music ○ Improper observance of the Lord's Supper
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