

Why Do We Worship?

1 Chronicles 16:23-31

Primarily Theological Themes for Worship

Each person of the Trinity plays a particular role in Christian worship. For example, the Father is the one who receives our worship and the one from whom grace extends. Grace comes from the Father THROUGH Christ IN the Spirit to us. Our worship gets TO the Father THROUGH Christ IN the Spirit. Jesus, or the Son, is the Unique Priesthood of Christ as the One who offered acceptable worship to God the Father and mediates our worship to the Father. The Holy Spirit (or Ghost) is the joining force by which we are united to Christ in order to share in his royal priesthood.

We use scripture, tradition, reason, and experience to become more mature disciples in the Christian faith. This is called the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. We cannot base our entire belief system off one or the other. Rather we must use all the resources available to us to learn as much as we can.

The clearest teaching of United Methodist doctrine is that the Lord's Supper is a means whereby God conveys prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace to all persons. The Lord's Supper is a gift to all persons to remember and be thankful for Christ's sacrifice of love. Wesley interprets the petition for daily bread in the Lord's Prayer to refer to the physical bread, spiritual bread, and the sacramental bread as the 'grand channel' for God's Grace.

John Wesley's Directions for Singing

- I. Learn these tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.
- II. Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing.
- III. Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.
- IV. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.
- V. Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.
- VI. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.