

## Spiritual Disciplines Within The Church

### Chapter 5: Why Worship with the Church?

#### **Introduction:**

Do we have to be in church to worship God? Can't we worship God anywhere? This chapter is concerned with the importance and worth of worshipping God *with* His people—the church—when and where they gather to worship Him. “*All places are places of worship to a Christian*”. (C.H. Spurgeon) (*Matt. 4:10, Ps. 95:6*)

#### **I. God reveals Himself more clearly in congregational worship than in nature.**

A. Creation is not the *clearest* revelation of God. (*Ps. 19:1, Is. 6:3*)

B. You will not hear about Christ and God-breathed words when you worship God in nature. (*II Tim. 3:16*)

#### **II. God is glorified more in congregational worship than in private worship.**

A. God gets more glory when you worship Him with the church than when you worship Him alone. (*II Thess. 1:10, Phil. 2:10-11*)

B. Do not substitute your private worship for your public worship.

#### **III. Congregational worship is more edifying than private worship.**

A. Others are edified. (*Heb. 10:24, I Cor. 14:24-25*)

B. Unbelievers can perceive God's presence.

#### **IV. God can be experienced in unique ways in congregational worship.**

A. You are God's field, you are God's building. (*I Cor. 3:9b*)

B. Do you not know that you are the temple of God? (*I Cor. 3:16-17*)

C. For you are the temple of the living God. (*II Cor. 6:16b*)

D. You also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (*Eph. 2:19-22*)

E. You are being built up as a spiritual house. (*I Pet. 2:5a*)

#### **V. Jesus regularly participated in congregational worship.** (*Luke 4:16*)

#### **VI. Congregational worship is more like heaven.** (*Heb. 12:22-24*)

A. Learning to worship with the church.

1. God reveals Himself more clearly in public worship than in nature.

2. God is more glorified in congregational worship than in private worship.

3. Congregational worship is more edifying to you and others than solo worship.

4. God can be experienced in church worship in ways that He cannot in solitary worship.

5. Congregational worship is more like heaven than any other regular experience on earth.

B. You may sometimes experience the enjoyment of God more in private worship than congregational worship.

C. You have not been thoughtful or wholehearted in congregational worship if this inability to worship publicly is typical.

1. You cannot be mentally passive in church and expect to meet God.

2. You must seek God in public worship in order to find Him.

D. Congregational worship surpasses private worship, but does not replace it.

E. If you love God, how can you neglect worship in the church?