

INTRODUCTION: FELLOWSHIP IN WORSHIP (see Acts 2:42)

I. MEANINGFUL WORDS

- A. **ASSEMBLY** (Dt.9:10; 1Kngs.8:14; Ps.22:23; see *synagogue*, Jn.18:20; Jms.2:2)
- B. **CONGREGATION** (*church*; Acts 7:38; 14:27; 1Th.1:1; 2:14)
- C. **COME TOGETHER** (1Cor.11:17,18f; 14:23,26)
- D. **SUMMARIZED** (Eph.1:10 with 4:15,11f)
- E. **FINAL GATHERING...** (Mt.23:37; 24:31; 2Th.2:1; see 1Th.4:17; Ps.107:3)
- F. **... AND ITS PREPARATIONS** (Heb.10:25; see 12:18f)
- G. **FEASTAL GATHERING** (Heb.12:22; see Rev.4,5; see 2Chr.7:9; Neh.8:18; Mk.14:25; Rev.19:9)

II. ELEMENTARY EXAMPLES (see Acts 2:42)

- A. **WE ASSEMBLE TO HEAR THE WORD *TOGETHER*** (Acts2:42; 13:15; see Neh.8:1f; Lk.4:16; 6:6; 1Cor.1:2; Col.4:16)
- B. **WE ASSEMBLE TO WITNESS BAPTISMS *TOGETHER*** (Mt.3:5f,13f; Acts1:5&2:1f; 2:38f)
- C. **WE ASSEMBLE TO CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER *TOGETHER*** (Acts 2:42; 1Cor.11:17,18f)
- D. **WE ASSEMBLE TO PRAY *TOGETHER*** (Acts 2:42; 1Kngs.8:5,22f; Mt.6:9; Acts16:13; 20:36; see 1Cor.14:27,31; 33,40)
- E. **WE ASSEMBLE TO PRAISE *TOGETHER*** (Ps.34:3; see Ps.22:22,25; 111:1; etc., Psalms; 1Cor.14:26)
- F. **WE ASSEMBLE TO FELLOWSHIP *TOGETHER*** (Acts 2:42f; Ps.122:1f; see Col.3:16)
- G. **WE ASSEMBLE TO BE BLESSED *TOGETHER*** (Num.6:22f; 2Cor.13:14; Heb.13:20,21)

III. SOME PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES

- A. **WORSHIP IS *PRIMARILY* CORPORATE** (see all above)
- B. **PRIVATE WORSHIP *DEPENDS ON* CORPORATE WORSHIP** (Ex.33:8f; Dan.6:10; see Acts 2:42f,46)
- C. **YOU CANNOT BE A *PART OF* CHRIST AND *APART FROM* HIS *WORSHIPPING BODY***
(Eph.1:10 with 4:15,11f; Heb.10:25)
- D. **YOU WILL NOT BE GATHERED AT *HIS COMING* IF YOU ARE NOT GATHERED *NOW***
(Heb.10:25; 12:18f; see Mt.24:31; 1Th.4:17; 2Th.2:1)
- E. **WHY WE DO NOT PRAY *INDIVIDUALLY*, EVEN AT THE LORD'S TABLE** (see 1Cor.11:17f; 14:27,31; 33,40; corporate response to preaching)
- F. **PRIVATE & FAMILY MATTERS *PRIMARILY* IN PRIVATE & FAMILY WORSHIP** (Dan.6:10; Acts1:13f; 2:46f; i.e., word & prayer-praise)
- G. **CONCLUSION: *FELLOWSHIP IN WORSHIP*** (Heb.10:25; see Acts 2:42)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest interest to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be useful, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What verses covered were most helpful? How so?
4. How does this sermon *confirm* your current faith and life? How does it *correct* or *improve* these things?
5. How does this sermon *confirm* our *corporate* faith and life? How does it *correct* or *improve* these things?
6. Which of the “meaningful words” (section I) was most helpful to you? Why?
 - a. What do you think of the connection between present worship gatherings and our gathering at the Lord’s coming?
 - b. What does “festal gathering” (I,G; Heb.12:22) suggest about the nature of God’s worship?
7. Which of the “elementary examples”(section II) were most striking to you? Why?
 - a. Were any of these points not persuasive to you? If so, why not?
 - b. Which of these things do you find the most blessing in? Why?
 - c. In which of these do you find the least blessing? Why?
8. Are you persuaded of each of the practical consequences (section III). Why or why not?
9. Can someone be saved who is not a part of the worshipping body of Christ? (see III,C; WCF, 25,2)
10. What do you think of the principle of led prayer at the Lord’s Table? What do you think of our practice of this?
11. What are your habits of personal piety? (i.e. word, prayer, praise) Of family piety?
12. What is the root of Christian fellowship? What flows from it? (for both questions, see Acts 2:42f)