

DIVINELY AUTHORIZED WORSHIP OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Ed Dye

I. INTRODUCTION

1. God, and God alone, is to be worshipped, not man, Exo.20:3; Deut.5:6,7; Mt.4:10; Ac.14:11-15; Rev.19:10; 22:8,9.
2. While God is to be the object of man's worship, man has never been left free to worship God as man chooses without divine guidance and restrictions, but always as God has dictated, Gen.4:1-5; Heb.11:4 (Rom.1:17); Jude 11.
3. Thus in this lesson we shall emphasize man's need to recognize and respect this principle by discussing the divinely authorized worship of the local church in this the N.T. dispensation.
4. The divinely authorized worship of the local church:

II. DISCUSSION

- A. MUST BE WORSHIP AUTHORIZED BY THE SCRIPTURES, FOR WE MUST HAVE SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY FOR ALL WE BELIEVE, TEACH AND PRACTICE, INCLUDING HOW WE WORSHIP GOD, 1Cor.4:6; Col.3:17; 1Pet.4:11; Rev.22:18,19; 2Jno.9; Cf. Deut.4:2.**
- B. MUST BE TO THE GLORY OF GOD, NOT SIMPLY TO THE WORSHIPPER'S SATISFACTION, 1Cor.10:31.**
- C. MUST BE IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH, Jno.4:23,24.**
- D. MUST BE WORSHIP WHICH INCLUDES THE AUTHORIZED ACTS OF PUBLIC WORSHIP.**
 1. There are five authorized acts of public worship.
 - a. Apostles' doctrine (teaching)
 - b. Fellowship (can refer to giving, a contribution, Ac.2:42 does in Rom.15:16; 2Cor.8:4)
 - c. Breaking bread (Lord's Supper)
 - d. Prayer
 - e. Singing, praising God in song, Eph.5:19; Col.3:16.
 2. Two of these are limited to and must be engaged in only on the 1st day of the week.
 - a. The Lord's Supper, Ac.20:7.
 - b. Giving, 1Cor.16:1,2.

3. The other three may be engaged in on any day of the week.

E. MUST BE CONDUCTED BY AUTHORIZED PERSONEL.

1. The worshippers must be true worshippers of God, baptized believer in fellowship with God, Jno.4:23,24; Ac.2:41,42;1Cor.11:26-30,33; 10:16,17,21; 1Cor.5:1-13; 2Th.3:6; 1Jno.1:1-3.
2. The teachers must be faithful baptized believers, faithful proclaimers of the word of God, Ac.20:28-31; Rom.16:17,18; 2Cor.6:14-18; Eph.5:11.
3. Those who lead the prayers for Bible study and worship services and serve the Lord's Supper must be faithful brethren, baptized believers in fellowship with God.
 - a. Who would deny this?
 - b. Would we let children who are too young to be Christians perform these public acts of worship and service?
 - c. Would it be scriptural if we did?
4. Then what about the song leaders for a Bible study and a service where we worship God in song, which is a teaching service and one of the acts of authorized worship?
 - a. Brethren, sometimes we can drift into a practice without thinking
 - b. Can we, with God's approval, use non-Christian as song leaders? Think brethren!!
 - c. Can we, with God's approval, use children who are too young to be Christians as song leaders at such services?
 - (1) If so, how young can they be?
 - (2) Where do we draw the line? At 8 yrs? 6 yrs? 4 yrs?
 - (3) When do they get to be too young or too old to be allowed to lead singing while they are still not Christians?
 - d. What makes it right to use song leaders, children or otherwise, who are not Christians of whatever age they are, but wrong to use non-Christians to lead prayer, teach a class, preach a class, or serve on the Lord's table?
 - e. Think brethren?

III. CONCLUSION

1. We not have the right to decide what the rules are.
2. Once the rules are set, we do not have the right to change them.
3. Any violation of them is sin!
4. We must give account for our actions!

