



A FRESH LOOK

**NEW TESTAMENT
CONCEPTS OF
WORSHIP AND
ASSEMBLY**

WORSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Where is the temple in the New Testament? **We are the temple.**
- Why is the body (both us individually and the collective church) the temple? **The Holy Spirits dwells in us.**
- Who are the priests that offer the sacrifices? **We are the priests.**
- What are the sacrifices? **The way you live and good deeds.**
- When is the worship performed? **All the time.**
- What does it mean to worship in the Spirit and in Truth?
- **Jesus said the change was to be from:
Physical Symbolism to Spiritual Reality**



Romans 12:1

Passage	Terminology	"Worship"?	Direction	Liturgy?
Mt 18:17-20	Gathering (synagō), Assembly (ekklēsia)	No	Horizontal	No
Acts 2:42-47	Together (epi to auto)	No	Both	No
Acts 4:23-35	Gathering (synagō)	No	Both	No
Acts 11:21-30	Gathering (synagō)	No	Horizontal	No
Acts 12:12-17	Gathering (synathroizō)	No	Mostly vertical	No
Acts 13:1-4	None	leitourgeō (ministering)	Both	No
Acts 14:21-28	Gathering (synagō)	No	Mostly horizontal	No
Acts 15:4-29	Gathering (synagō)	No	Horizontal	No
Acts 15:30-35	Gathering (synagō)	No	Mostly horizontal	No
Acts 20:6-12	Gathering (synagō)	No	Horizontal	No
1 Cor 11:17-34	Coming together (synerchomai), Assembly (ekklēsia)	No	Both	Possibly in the Lord's Supper
1 Cor 14:1-40	Coming together (synerchomai), Assembly (ekklēsia)	proskuneō Prostrating by Outsider	Mostly horizontal	Possibly with the amen and thanksgiving
1 Tm 2:8-12	"In every place" (en panti topō)	theosebeia (godliness)	Both	No
1 Tm 4:11-16	None	No	Horizontal	No
Heb 10:23-25	Assembling (episynagōgē)	No	Horizontal	No
Jas 2:2-4	Assembly (synagōgē)	No	Neither	No

SUMMARY OF ASSEMBLY PASSAGES

WHY ASSEMBLE TOGETHER?

- Hebrews 10:24-25
 - Stir up one another to love and good works
 - Encourage one another
- I Corinthians 14:26
 - Building up one another (edification)
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11
 - Encourage one another and build one another up



SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS

HEBREWS 10:24-25

Spur one another on to love and good works.
We must spur one another on to love and good works.
Not forsaking the assembly,
But encouraging one another,
We will spur one another on to love and good works.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO GET RIGHT IN THE ASSEMBLY?



WHAT DID THE EARLY CHURCH DO WHEN THEY ASSEMBLED?

- Acts 2:42 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TEACHING AND PREACHING?

- διδαχή – (*didache*) – that which is taught or doctrine, or
- διδασκαλία – (*didaskalia*) – the act of teaching or instruction
- Εὐαγγελίζω – (*euangelizo*) – to bring or declare good or glad tidings. Almost always used of the good news concerning the Son of God (proclaiming the Gospel. To evangelize.
- *Κηρύσσω* – (*kerusso*) – to be a herald or to proclaim in general, or to preach the Gospel as a herald.



WHERE DID WE GET OUR IDEA OF A PULPIT SERMON?

- Not found in the 1st Century Assemblies
 - » Separation of *Clergy* and *Laity* - Clement of Alexandria ~200 A.D.
 - » Greek Sophists become Christians ~250 A.D. – Debate/Rhetoric
 - » Orators become church leaders – John Chrysostom and Augustine ~ 350 A.D.
 - » Lost prominence from the 5th Century till the reformation
 - » Reformation - Luther/Calvin– Preacher/Pastor is “mouth of God” ~1530 A.D.
 - » Preacher/Evangelist – Restoration Movement is still the “mouth of God” ~1828 A.D.

A wooden floor with a diagonal plank pattern is visible at the bottom of the slide. To the right, a wooden shelf is shown, with a dark sign featuring the word "SERMON" in white, capital letters.

SERMON

WHERE DID WE GET OUR IDEA OF A PULPIT SERMON?

- Not found in the 1st Century Assemblies
- What have we lost in the process?
 - “The sermon makes the preacher the virtuoso performer of the regular church gathering. The congregation degenerates into a group of muted spectators who watch the performance.
 - “The sermon often stalemates spiritual growth. Because it is a one-way affair, it encourages passivity. It suffocates mutual ministry and participation.”

Quotes from “Pagan Christianity,” Frank Viola and George Barna



MUTUAL EDIFICATION / MUTUAL MINISTRY

- Hebrews 10:24-25 - ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
- When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.



Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.
Romans 14:19

MUTUAL EDIFICATION / MUTUAL MINISTRY

- 1 Cor. 14:31 - For you can all prophesy one by one, so that and all may learn all be encouraged,
- Eph. 4:11-12; 15-16 - ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.



WHAT CAN WE DO TO IMPROVE IN MUTUAL EDIFICATION?

- Introduce once a quarter/month testimonies into the assembly.
- Commit to flexible service elements that promote participation by all and especially youth visibility.
- Reintegrate a “Meet and Greet” time into our assembly time.
- Normalize communal prayer as part of our assembly.
- Explore possibilities for more spontaneity during services.

