



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?

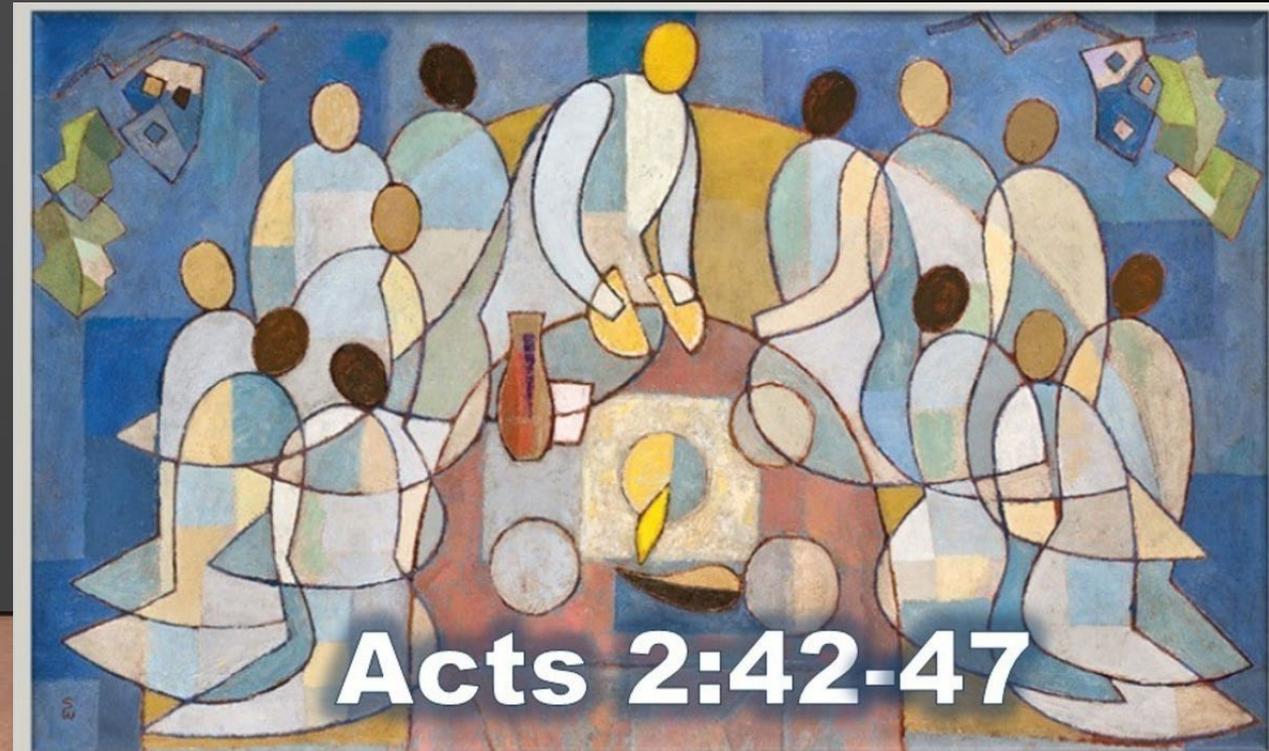


SUGGESTED REFERENCES FOR CONSIDERATION

- “What’s Sunday Really For,” Jordan Arnold,
<https://renew.org/whats-sunday-really-for/>
- Ready4Eternity Podcast and Blog, Eddie Lawrence,
<https://ready4eternity.com/blog/worship> (12 studies)

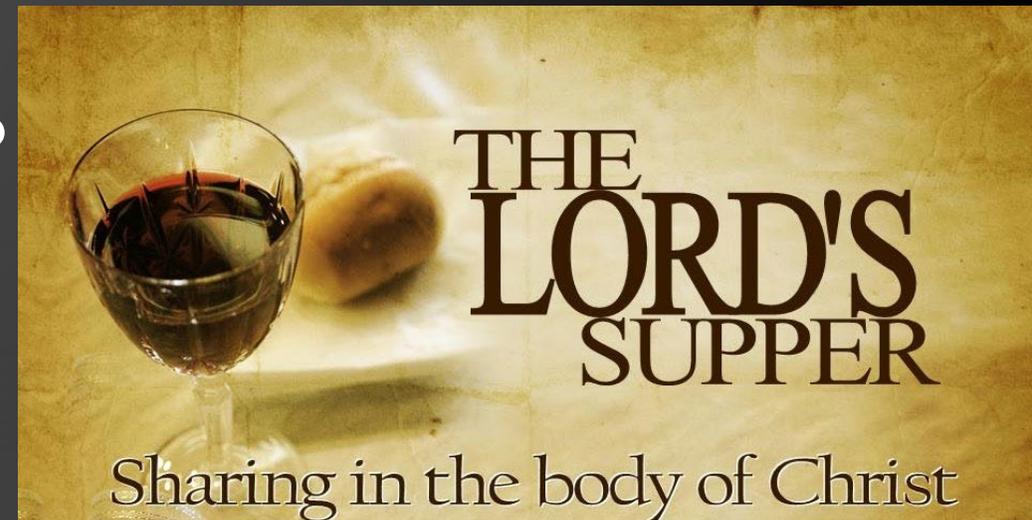
WHAT DID THE EARLY CHURCH DO WHEN THEY ASSEMBLED?

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



THE LORDS SUPPER – MORE VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL?

- 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 - The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation (communion, sharing) in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation (communion, sharing) in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake (share in) of the one bread.
- Who is communing/sharing with who?
- When?
 - When we are together as one body.



WHILE THEY WERE EATING, JESUS TOOK BREAD, GAVE THANKS AND BROKE IT, AND GAVE IT TO HIS DISCIPLES, SAYING, TAKE AND EAT THIS IS MY BODY. THEN HE TOOK THE CUP, GAVE THANKS AND OFFERED IT TO THEM, SAYING, DRINK FROM IT.

THE LORDS SUPPER – MORE VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL?

- 1 Corinthians 11:17-22 - But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you **come together** it is not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you **come together as a church**, I hear that there are **divisions among you**. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. When you **come together**, it is not the **Lord's supper** that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you **despise the church** of God and **humiliate** those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

THE LORDS SUPPER – MORE VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL?

- What was the problem with the way they were doing the Lord's Supper in the Corinthian assembly that made it not the Lord's Supper?
 - Divisions among them.
 - Despising one another
 - Humiliating one another
- The context is they celebrated the Lord's during a meal ("Love Feast") they shared together.
- The problem was not the meal but their treatment of each other.



Community in Conflict

1 CORINTHIANS

11:17-34

THE LORDS SUPPER – MORE VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL?

- 1 Corinthians 11:27-32 - Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an **unworthy manner** will be guilty concerning the **body and blood** of the Lord. Let a person **examine himself**, then, and so **eat of the bread and drink of the cup**. For anyone who eats and drinks **without discerning the body** eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we **judged ourselves truly**, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

THE LORDS SUPPER – MORE VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL?

- What is the unworthy manner that the Corinthians were guilty of?
 - How they were treating each other.
- What did they need to examine about themselves?
 - The relationship they had with each other.
- What does it mean “without discerning the body”? What body?
- What is the body of Christ they were not recognizing?
 - Context: 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 12:27



Come Together

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

THE LORDS SUPPER – VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL?

- What is the body of Christ they were not recognizing?
 - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 - The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation (communion, sharing) in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation (communion, sharing) in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, **we who are many are one body**, for we all partake (share in) of the one bread.
 - 1 Cor. 12:27 – Now **you are the body of Christ** and individually members of it.
 - We together are the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of Bread, showing that we are...



1 Corinthians 10:17

one body

THE LORDS SUPPER – MORE VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL?

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 - How they were treating each other.
- What did they need to examine about themselves?
 - The relationship they had with each other.
- What does it mean “without discerning the body”? What body?
- What is the body of Christ they were not recognizing?
 - 1 Cor 11 in Context of 1 Cor. 10 and 1 Cor. 12
 - His body that we are, our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Come Together

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

THE LORDS SUPPER – VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL?

- Compare with Jesus' words in:
 - Matt. 5:23-24. - So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First **be reconciled to your brother**, and **then come** and offer your gift.
 - Mark 11:25 - And whenever you stand praying, **forgive, if you have anything against anyone**, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”
 - What comes first? Horizontal or Vertical?

