

Understanding Acceptable Worship

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 4:11-16

INTRODUCTION.

- A. In the first two lessons in this series, we showed how acceptable worship...
 - 1. Is based on God's Word.
 - 2. Begins in the heart.
 - 3. Praises the Lord.
- B. In this final lesson, we will show that acceptable worship edifies..

I. ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP EDIFIES THE BRETHREN.

- A. What is edification?
 - 1. Paul wrote, *"...Let all things be done for edification."* (1 Corinthians 14:26)
 - 2. To edify is to build up, to strengthen.
 - 3. Edification is necessary for the growth and the working of the local congregation.
- B. What the Lord has given for edification.
 - 1. The Lord has given Christians what is necessary towards edification.
(Ephesians 4:11-16)
 - a. Apostles
 - b. Prophets
 - c. Evangelists
 - d. Pastors
 - e. Teachers
 - 2. These teaching elements are to equip the members of the church for the work of the ministry, for the building up or strengthening of the body.
(Ephesians 4:11-12)

3. These elements are to help the Christians to grow to spiritual maturity. This growth brings an established faith and security in God and His word. (Ephesians 4:13-14)
 4. The members of the church are to do their part to help the local church to grow. This growth will result in the edifying of the body in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)
- C. How do we edify one another?
1. We edify one another when we participate in the assembling of the church.
 - a. We are to *"consider one another in order to stir up love and good works."* (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - 1) Our actions should stir up love and good works.
 - 2) Our actions should edify.
 - b. Acceptable worship results in proper edification. (1 Corinthians 14:12, 26)
 - 1) The proclamation of Jesus' death strengthens our faith and our hope.
 - 2) The songs we sing in worship build us up in knowledge and reassurance of God's promises.
 - 3) The prayers we offer up should unify us in our trust and reliance upon God.
 - 4) The preaching of God's word should instruct and inspire us to walk in fellowship with God.
 - c. Acceptable worship requires members to do their part.
 - 1) Paul wrote, *"...but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."* (Ephesians 4:15-16)

- 2) When we forsake or abandon the assembling of the church, then we fail in supplying our part for working and growth of the body. (Hebrews 10:25)
2. We edify one another when we correct one who is sinning. (Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:19-20)
3. We edify one another by showing love in our actions and compassion.
 - a. Love without hypocrisy. (Romans 12:9-21)
 - b. In matters of judgment. (Romans 15:1-3)
 - c. In matters of forgiveness. (Colossians 3:12-14)
 - d. In matters of compassion and need. (Philippians 2:1-4)

CONCLUSION.

- A. Acceptable worship edifies the brethren. It strengthens and builds up the faith and spiritual lives of God's children.
- B. Whether we are worshiping the Lord collectively or spending time together in our personal lives, we are to always seek to edify one another.
- C. Our goal is eternity with God in heaven. However, we need each other to help strengthen us on our journey.

Understanding Acceptable Worship – Part 3

by John M. Duvall – February 22, 2026 – File #: 1642, Worship

Preached at the Seminole Pointe church of Christ in Edmond, Oklahoma