

Why our services are

Quiet and Orderly

By Rev. Wilbur Bruinsma

There may be those who visit our worship services and are immediately struck by how quiet and orderly the worship is. Some who are of a charismatic background may characterize this as a lack of the Holy Spirit in worship. We assure you that this is not the case! The various elements of our worship services are carried out in a very purposeful manner.

The solemnity of worship

We believe that our worship must be solemn. The definition that Webster gives in his dictionary for solemn is, "marked by grave sedateness and earnest sobriety." There are no jokes told or laughter heard. There is no loud and disorderly behavior during our worship services because we believe these are inappropriate for proper worship of God. The Bible teaches about worship in Ecclesiastes 5:1, 2: "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."

As we find from the above quote, the heart of worship is bowing before God in humble adoration. He is all glorious, almighty, and sovereign in His rule over all things. He is majestic and terrible in His dignity (Psalm 47:2; Psalm 66:3). Man is but a little creature in the hand of his almighty Creator and is called solemnly to gather in worship of His holy name. "But the LORD is in His

holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him." (Habakkuk 2:20)



The orderliness of worship

The congregation established in the city of Corinth by the apostle Paul during his second missionary journey was known for its loud and disorderly worship service. Some members spoke in tongues, others had a psalm to sing, others wanted to pray in the church, and still others had a prophecy to relate. All of these were vying for a place during the worship service. In Paul's letter to the Corinthian church God, through this apostle, admonished the church there. "If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak in tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?" (I Corinthians 14:23) God's Word regulates the worship of the church in this way. "Let all things be done decently and in order." (v. 40) Why? "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." (vs. 34) God calls us

to solemn worship by means of an orderly way of worship.

The purpose of worship

The purpose of worship is to magnify the name of God. It is to hold His name before us in praise and pay homage unto Him. Such praise and honor is given when attention is focused on God and what He has done for us. Any attention drawn away from God and given to man takes from God what belongs to Him alone. It is for this reason that worship must be quiet and solemn. God's people must be more quick to listen than to speak.

The chief way God's name can be magnified in worship is the way God Himself has prescribed in the Bible: the preaching. When that preacher who is properly trained and called by the church carefully expounds and

applies God's Word, we hear what God is saying to us. The Bible is what the Spirit says to the churches. When we sit quietly and listen carefully to the Word of God preached, then we are listening to the Spirit of God speak to us through the mouth of His servant. We must not mistake that worship aimed at arousing one's emotions or feelings as the proper means of receiving the Spirit. The Spirit is present and working in the worship service that focuses on careful instruction given through the preaching of the Word. It is for this reason then that we conduct quiet and orderly worship services.

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