

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

Requisites Of Acceptable Worship

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”- John 4:24

Three requisites of acceptable worship are set forth in this verse: **1)** We must worship God. **2)** We must worship God in spirit. **3)** We must worship God in truth.

The first commandment forbade the worship of any other being. It said, “**Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**” (Deut. 5:7). Verse 9 of Deuteronomy 5 reads, “**Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I, Jehovah, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me.**” Hence, however sincere might be the idol worshipper, his worship is highly displeasing to God, because it fails in the first of the requisites above given. It is not directed to God.

Secondly, the worship must be in spirit, i.e., proceeding from a sincere heart and rendered with attention and understanding. This forbids worship that is merely formal—worship that consists of rites and ceremonies in which the worshipper may engage without attention. Catholicism is a system of such worship where the worshipper may not know, and indeed is not expected to know, the significance of much in which he engages.

There is some danger that this type of worship should come to obtain in Christ’s church. The unvarying routine of services, the formal and mechanical participation in song, prayer, and the Lord’s Supper, the failure to give attention and enter heartily into the worship leads to that which is not in spirit.

This is that which Jesus rebuked in the Pharisees in Matthew 15:9—vain worship. Such people as this worship him with their lips and give utterance to phrases of worshipful nature, but the heart is not in it, and God is not pleased. We should ever be on our guard that we do not fall into a mechanical, formal, heartless type of devotion to God.

“**This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**” - Matthew 15:8,9

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: ED KELLEHER

PM: ED KELLEHER

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW YOURSELF?

“For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” - Hebrews 4:12

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

To be announced

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.*
- It was good to see **Judy Walker** able to make it last Sunday AM again. Remember to **send notes and cards** to those who aren't able to make it out often, (like Anna Porter and Judy Walker too).
- We were glad to have **Margaret Herring** and her daughter **Jessica Moore** join us last Sunday also. Margaret is to have shoulder surgery this week. Send them a card to encourage them.
- Also, the **Sailor's family, Jeremy, Brittany, Zander, Zoe and the little one** were able to visit also. Send them a card of encouragement.
- **Connie Richbough** is to have her 2nd knee totally replaced next Wed. 6/12. The recovery will be long. Pray she does well.
- **Dawn Gamble** and **Paula Kennedy** are recovering from some dental work.
- Remember **Stephanie Rigney** who is looking forward to completing her course of chemotherapy.
- Keep all these, and **the church here**, in your prayers. Our thanks and gratitude to those who watch, and work and pray for the church here. To those faithful in visiting and attendance, encouraging others by talking with them. To those quietly doing the many jobs necessary to keep the congregation functioning.

"But we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope" - Romans 5:3,4

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- It was good to have **TJ Bolen** and his wife **Michelle** and sons **Easton** and **Richter**, here last week. Our thanks to those who worked to make this happen: inviting people to attend, working on the building and grounds and preparing food. All were welcome and went away filled—spiritually and physically. After consideration, the church has invited TJ to work with us here at West Columbia, doing the work of an evangelist. Pray the Lord's will be done, and that the church here will grow in spirit and number and the Lord be magnified.
- **BULLETINS BY EMAIL** sent each Friday. To subscribe, send email address to Ed.
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors!** Brother Gamble posts a list each week of visitors and those of our number who need encouragement.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." - Romans 5:1

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;

but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” - Matthew 7:21

Requisites Of Acceptable Worship—(Continued from page 1)

Finally, worship, to be acceptable, must be in truth. To be “in truth” is to be according to God's word. Jesus said, **“Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.” (John 17:17).** Any act of worship—however sincere might be the worshipper—is not acceptable to God if it is not in harmony with the scriptures. This teaches us that God will accept only that which he has specifically set forth in the scriptures for us to do in worship. We walk by faith and not by sight, (2 Cor. 5:7), and since faith comes by hearing God's word, (Rom. 10:17), we can offer in faith only that which is set forth in his word.

This will exclude from our worship everything not specifically mentioned therein. By this rule, we can never use instrumental music in worship, because it is nowhere commanded or even mentioned in Christian worship. Therefore, we cannot engage in it “by faith.”

True, David used instrumental music, but he also offered animal sacrifices and burned incense in worship. We do not take our orders from David today. Christ is our lawgiver and guide. (Matt. 17:5; 28:18; Heb. 1:1-2). He has nowhere authorized instrumental music, the Holy Spirit-inspired apostles did not sanction it, no New Testament writer mentioned it in Christian worship, and no apostolic church practiced it. To engage in it is to fail to worship “in truth.” But God is pleased when one only worships in truth. Therefore, instrumental music is not pleasing to him.

The items of worship are set forth in Acts 2:42 and Eph. 5:19. These are (1) teaching, (2) singing, (3) prayer, (4) the contribution, and (5) the Lord's Supper. These items were observed on every first day of the week by the church in apostolic times. (1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7).

“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them ...” - Acts 20:7a

The disciples were directed by men who were empowered with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:42; 2:1). We can do no less than this and be assured to pleasing God today. What pleased him then will surely please him today. All else must be rigidly excluded from worship and service to God. **“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” (1 Sam. 15:22).**

- Henry Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Gospel Preacher

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” - John 14:15

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- We rejoice with the Parks' family as son **Christopher Parks** obtained his Eagle Scout ranking and graduated from high school also. Keep him in your prayers that he will continue to do well.