

Worship Concepts

In The New Testament

Lesson Three

Part 03

The Assembly: Its Purpose?

In our last lesson we began looking at the Assembly and trying to find it's purpose in the scheme of things.

Remember: If we are worshipping before we get here and after we leave, then we are worshipping while we are together... no one is saying that we are not.

Last time we saw that the assembly was a time of **“Giving and Receiving.”**

We will Hebrews 10:19-25, the most famous “go to church” passage in the Bible.

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

So, if we look further, what might we find to be the purpose of the assembly.

Is the purpose that we might comply with the “Five Acts of Worship” or is it deeper than that?

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME OF COMMUNION - FELLOWSHIP

The Assembly is a time when we share in the Lord's Supper together.

Acts 20:7

*On the first day of the week we came together to **break bread**. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.*

They came together for a specific reason here in this passage.



THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME OF COMMUNION - FELLOWSHIP

1 Corinthians 11:17-33

When we look at this passage, though it is about a problem, I want you to look at what the violation was... not necessarily the problem in general.

We will look at this in a lesson of its own soon.

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME OF COMMUNION - FELLOWSHIP

1 Corinthians 11:17-33

(17) In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. (18) In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. (19) No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. (20) When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, (21) for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk.

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME OF COMMUNION - FELLOWSHIP

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*(17) In the following directives I have no praise for you, for **your meetings do more harm than good**. (18) In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, **there are divisions among you**, and to some extent I believe it. (19) No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. (20) When you come together, **it is not the Lord's Supper you eat**, (21) for as you eat, **each of you goes ahead without waiting** for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk.*

You have to ask yourself what is being harmed here?

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME OF COMMUNION - FELLOWSHIP

Worship is a time to share in the lives of the family.

It is about fellowship.

KOINONIA - Noun, "communion, fellowship, contribution, sharing in common."

(from **koinos**) - "common"

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME OF COMMUNION - FELLOWSHIP

We often think of the Lord's Supper as a time to get "one on one" with God.

If they were violating one another and it was not the "Lord's Supper" they were eating, as Paul said, then was the disrupted fellowship between...

them and God...

or between each other?

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME OF COMMUNION - FELLOWSHIP

The Lord's Supper was to be eaten within the assembly and has an effect on those who shared it together.

We may have to reconsider what fellowship is.

It is more than getting together to eat a sandwich or sing a few songs... though it can certainly include that.

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME FOR PRAYER, SINGING AND TEACHING

A Time For Prayer

A time to come together and share in prayer.

Remember: This must be in an edifying manner.

The time and place for long complicated prayers is when you are in your "prayer place."

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME FOR PRAYER, SINGING AND TEACHING

A Time For Singing

1 Corinthians 14:26

*What then shall we say, brothers? **When you come together**, everyone has a **hymn**, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.*

Take a close look at that verse and see if it appears to be something you bring to share.

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME FOR PRAYER, SINGING AND TEACHING

Most of our singing is to be done to and toward each other.

Ephesians 5:19

*Speak to **one another** with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord*

Colossians 3:16

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME FOR PRAYER, SINGING AND TEACHING

Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish **one another** with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

Even though these do not speak of the context of an assembly, the principles would certainly apply.

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME FOR PRAYER, SINGING AND TEACHING

A Time For Teaching

1 Corinthians 14:26

*What then shall we say, brothers? **When you come together**, everyone has a hymn, or a **word of instruction**, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.*

The church needs instruction deeply rooted in the Word of God.

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

A TIME FOR PRAYER, SINGING AND TEACHING

A Time For Teaching

Paul used the time to teach when He had the church together.

Acts 20:7

*On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul **spoke** to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.*

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

THE ASSEMBLY IS FOR BELIEVERS

Evangelism is for the outside.

It is not designed primarily for the assembly.

Acts 3:11ff - in the temple

Acts 4:23ff - before the priest

Acts 6:8ff - in the synagogue

Acts 7:1ff – Stephen before the Sanhedrin

Acts 8:4 - everywhere

Acts 8:26ff - on a roadway

THE ASSEMBLY: ITS PURPOSE

THE ASSEMBLY IS FOR BELIEVERS

NOTE: This does not mean that the assembly cannot be used as a time for evangelism.

But the assembly is a time for family to deal with family needs.

To be Strengthened

To be Taught

To Share - (joy, sorrow, hardships, victories, etc.)

It is to be a place of emotional healing.

