

1 **UNDERSTANDING WORSHIP(5)**

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. IN OUR ASSEMBLIES, CAN WE CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH IS CONDUCIVE TO PROSKUNEIA?

- Can emotions be manipulated?
Summer camps; movies; songs
- Is this necessarily a bad thing?
Acts 2; Stream in the Desert ; "special" services.
- However:
hamburger, spaghetti, soup vs. lobster.
pep rally vs practice.

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Latreia or proskuneo are degraded when an atmosphere of entertainment occurs. The focus is removed from God or others to self.

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2. IS IT RIGHT TO REGULATE THE LATREIA THAT OCCURS DURING OUR ASSEMBLIES?

- The example of 1 Cor 14:26-34,40:
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. {27} If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the most three--should speak, one at a time, and

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someone must interpret. {28} If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God. {29} Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. {30} And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. {31} For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. {32} The spirits of prophets are subject

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to the control of prophets. {33} For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the congregations of the saints, {34} women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. (1 Cor 14:40) But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

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- Order in the latreia is important.

- Disruptive conduct in a classroom or an assembly of the saints detracts from the goal being sought.
- 3. What about announcements, reports from missionaries, budget info, during the assembly?
 - As we have seen latreia and proskuneo occur during the assembly; they would not necessarily exclude other relevant family business.

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4. WHAT SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF SINGING IN OUR ASSEMBLY?

- Much of the discussion about worship centers upon music.
- We live in a music saturated culture reflective of a variety of styles and tastes.
- We've developed a kind of "code" language about music in worship.

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Praise and worship

Praise team

Worship team

Worship leader

Contemporary worship

Celebration service

Some questions we need to consider:

1. Is music a primary factor in the assembly in 1 Cor 12-14?

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2. Is music the only venue in which proskuneo is generated? Neh 8; 1 Cor 14
3. While music can and does teach, is it able to teach to the depth of which a sermon is capable?
4. Is our worship both an intellectual and emotional exercise?
5. *Why* do we sing the songs we do?
 - Adoration; teaching; pretty?

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- Is God impressed by our harmony or our hearts?
- 5. WHAT ABOUT PHYSICALITY IN WORSHIP?
 - Another area of much discussion.
 - In our culture no one has much problem with sitting, standing, or even tapping your foot.
 - What about lifting hands? Psa 28:2; 63:4; 134:2; 1 Tim 2:8
 - What about clapping? Psa 47:1; 98:8

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- Standing? Ex 33:10
- Sitting? No examples
- Falling down or bowing down?
 - Bow down and worship – 27 times
 - Fall down and worship – 13 times
- We need to honestly address how much of our attitude toward physicality in worship

is cultural and traditional and how much is Biblical.

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