



the early
CHURCH

Prayer | Breaking Bread | Teaching | Fellowship
ACTS 2:42

the series...

1. What JESUS said...
2. What the EARLY CHURCH did...
3. What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...
4. What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...



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WORTHY OF
WORSHIP

What JESUS said...



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What JESUS said about the Church...

John 4:19-26

The woman said to [Jesus], “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

You worship what you do not know...



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What JESUS said about the Church...

John 4:19-26

...we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”



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What the **EARLY CHURCH** did...



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What the EARLY CHURCH did...

Christian Worship

- Met together in homes
 - Eating together (Acts 2:46)
 - Worshipers in homes (Acts 18:7)
 - Churches in homes (Philemon 1:2)
- The shape of their worship
 - Singing of Hymns and songs (Eph 5:19)
 - Vocal thanksgiving (Eph 5:20)
 - Teaching, fellowship, prayers, breaking bread (Acts 2:42)
 - Unity – worship together: “for building up” (1 Cor 14:26)



What the EARLY CHURCH did...

Meeting for Worship (30 – 313 A.D.)

- From “*Sabbath*” to “*Lord’s Day*”
- Transformation (the Sabbath day into the Lord’s Day – from last day to first day)
- Church Fathers explaining the Lord’s Day
 - Not about creation (day of rest) → “creation of light”
 - Not about 4th commandment (keeping the Sabbath)
 - Not a sobering day – often fasting & quiet prayer inappropriate
 - ***ALL about celebrating the resurrection!***
- Meeting twice: morning and evening – but ended again



What the EARLY CHURCH did...

Worship included...

- Spiritual Sacrifice (Romans 12, 1 Peter 2:4-5)
- Specific Practices
 - *Communion* (1 Cor 11), *laying on of hands* (Acts 6:6), *lifting up hands in worship* (1 Tim 2:8), *contributions for ministry* (1 Cor 16:2), *reading scripture* (1 Tim 4:13).
- *Koinonia* – gk for “sharing” or “participation”
- Hymns were common, not always forefront



What the EARLY CHURCH did...

Worship included...

- Early Church description by Justin Martyr...
 - Gathering in one place
 - Reading of the apostles or prophets
 - Some sort of instruction based on reading
 - Rise together and pray
 - Bread and wine (distributed to all – absent included)
 - Prayers and thanksgiving
 - Offering (from those “well to do” to those “needing”)



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What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...



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What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...

The Roots of Worship

- Styles
 - African-American (Holiness movements)
- Theological
 - Wesleyan and Methodist (deeper life in Christ)



What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did... the Church

The WORSHIPING body

- Participation
- Unity

Pentecostal Worship (Eschatological Trinitarian Worship)

1. Desire to know the Father
2. Celebrating the Saviour's Cross
3. Experiencing the Spiritual gifts



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What **THE CHURCH TODAY** needs to do...



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What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...

Worship Theology

1. Where do we see heretical worship?
 - Competitiveness & Performance
2. How did God already move?
 - The cross
3. How do we worship the fullness of God?
 - Trinity (F, S, HS) - The Spirit → Son → Father
4. What is our response?
 - For God's pleasure
 - Responding to God's grace



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What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...

Practical Thoughts

1. Worship as a lifestyle

- Devotional life, sacrifice, spiritual growth, a light, monetary giving...

2. Worship as a connection with God

- Thanksgiving, relationship, worthiness, glory

3. Worship as a body

- Participation, communion, unity



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The early church was devoted...
Are We?



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