

instruments in worship.

Conclusion: Whatever we do let us do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

In all our worship we must be under the control of Jesus. 2 John 9 says, “*Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.*” Christ’s teaching is precious to the Christian. In teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, prayer and singing the Christian follows Jesus. The church of Christ honours Christ as Head and does what He says, nothing else.

Student’s Name _____
Address _____

THE CHURCH IN EPHESIANS
a Correspondence Course – Nine Lessons by Paul K. Williams

Lesson 7: Singing to One Another

Singing to One Another, Ephesians 5:15-21

- I. The Two-fold purpose of worship**
 - A. To build one another up.
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 - A. Sing merely for entertainment.
 - B. Have choirs to entertain us.
 - C. Play instruments of music.
 - D. Dance, clap.

Conclusion: Whatever we do let us do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Introduction

Ephesians 5:15-21 tells us to be wise and not foolish. Wisdom requires us to understand properly and to act properly. A part of our wise actions is singing in the proper way. Here is the passage:

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

Look at the contrasts in this passage.

CONTRASTS IN EPHESIANS 5:15-21

Be wise → → → Not unwise.

Make the most of your time → → → Because the days are evil

Understand the will of the Lord → → → Do not be foolish

Be filled with the Spirit → → → Do not get drunk.

The Christian walks in a different way from worldly people because he is careful. He is guided by the wisdom from God. He makes the most of his time because he does not make the foolish mistakes of the world. He does not allow his judgment to be overcome with wine, but he is guided by the word of the Holy Spirit.

The drunk man sings songs of lasciviousness and foolishness. The Christian sings psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. The world plays music which teaches us to be free in sex, to give in to violent impulses, and to despise authority. The Christian warns and admonishes in song, singing with thankfulness to God.

concerning singing in the book of Revelation do not refer to the singing of the church on earth.)

This means that Jesus has limited us to singing, and singing only, in worship to Him. If we play instruments of music in worship, we do it without His authority. If it is without His authority, it cannot be in His name. If playing instruments of music in worship cannot be done in His name, it must not be done at all, for Paul said, *“and whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”* (Colossians 3:17)

Perhaps an illustration will make this clearer. When Jesus told us to eat the Lord’s Supper He said for us to eat the bread and drink the fruit of the vine, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. That is the only food He tells us to eat or drink in the Lord’s Supper. Though I may want to put jam on the bread and eat meat also, I must not do that because Jesus did not tell me to do it. It is sinful to add to His word; and it is sinful to add different food to the Lord’s Supper.

The same is true in regard to music in worship. Jesus has told us the kind of music He wants us to give to Him. We are to SING and we are to MAKE MELODY IN OUR HEARTS. When I add the guitar to that, I am adding a different kind of music, a kind of music which Jesus does not give me permission to use. I have no more authority to add the guitar to the singing than I have to add jam to the bread in the Lord’s Supper. Both are alike unauthorised by Jesus and are therefore SINFUL.

D. Dance, clap

Equally unauthorised are dancing and clapping. These methods of praising God are not given in the New Testament and cannot be done in the name of Jesus Christ.

Questions:

46. T F We must do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.
47. T F We may worship God in ways not given in the New Testament.
48. T F Spiritual songs are for entertainment.
49. T F Those with good voices should sing while the rest should listen.
50. T F Under the Law of Moses the Jews used instruments of music to praise God.
51. T F The New Testament tells Christians to sing and never tells us to play

In some denominational services the music is used to draw people to the service. The music, usually with electric organ, guitar, or other instruments, has a rock beat and gets everyone to tapping their feet and rocking back and forth. Some people think they get the Holy Spirit when the music gets them excited, but you can get the same feeling at a discotheque.

In other denominations soft organ music, choirs, and classical music entertain the crowd. This is a different kind of entertainment, but it is an appeal to the flesh just as the rock music is.

God does not tell us to use spiritual songs for entertainment. To do so is without His authority.

B. Have choirs to entertain us

Choirs violate God's word in two ways. First, the verses we have studied show that ALL are to sing, ALL are to teach one another. These verses do not say that SOME are to sing while the rest listen. There is no room for choirs in the words of Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16.

Second, choirs are made up of those with the best voices. They rehearse so that they can sing in a beautiful way. The result is that they entertain more than they teach. The reason denominations have choirs is different from God's purpose for our singing. It is a worldly purpose, not spiritual.

C. Play instruments of music.

During the time when God's Old Testament Law was His law to Israel, the Jews used all kinds of musical instruments to praise God. (See Psalm 150) This was part of the fleshly worship of that age; but now that the New Testament of Jesus Christ is our law and the time has come to worship God in spirit and in truth, the fleshly worship of instruments of music has been replaced by the spiritual worship of the heart. Our singing is to be accompanied by the heart, not the harp.

In every place where the New Testament refers to the worship of Christians on the earth, the music is called "singing." Never does the New Testament simply say, "make music," and never does it talk about Christians playing musical instruments on earth. If you want to check in your Bible, here are the verses: Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; James 5:13. (The verses

I. The two-fold purpose of worship

Although this passage deals only with singing, it shows us the two-fold purpose of worship. Those two purposes are to build one another up and to give praise and thanks to God.

A. To build one another up.

Why are we to "*speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*"? The parallel passage in Colossians 3:16 says, "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*" We encourage and strengthen one another.

Hebrews 10:24-25 makes it clear that this is one of the main reasons we are to assemble together. "*And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*" It should be the purpose of Christians to encourage one another, to stimulate one another to love and good works. One important way we do this is by assembling together to worship God. If we "forsake" that assembling, we sin against God, we fail to encourage our brethren, we fail to be encouraged ourselves. Every Christian should seek to assemble with his brethren as often as possible. Every first day of the week we should assemble to eat the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7) and give our money (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). When it is practical, we will assemble more often, even daily (see Acts 2:46-47)

B. To praise God

The second purpose of worship is given in the last of Ephesians 5:19: "*singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.*" The next verse adds: "*giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

When Christians assemble together, Jesus is in the midst (Matthew 18:20). We have the privilege of together praising and thanking God for what He has done and has promised to do for us. The one who has been cleansed of his sins, the one who has seen His Saviour on the cross, the one who has been helped in temptation, the one who has been given the hope of heaven—that one cannot keep from praising and thanking God. To him it is a wonderful privilege, and he never tires of lifting his voice in praise. This is worship.

Questions:

1. The two purposes of worship are: 1 _____
2 _____
2. T F Christians should assemble together on the first day of the week.
3. T F Christians should give to the church on the first day of the week.
4. T F The church must have assemblies only on the first day of the week.

II. The nature of New Testament worship.

New Testament worship is different in nature from worship under the Old Testament. The difference was given by Jesus when He talked with the Samaritan woman at the well. *"The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:19-24)*

When the woman asked her question the Old Testament law was God's law for the Jews. But in a matter of months Jesus was going to be crucified, and when that happened the law of Moses ended. So when He answered the woman about where God should be worshipped, He looked forward a short time to when the place would not be important. The Old Testament required the Jews to go to the temple in Jerusalem to worship; the New Testament does not give any place where we must worship. It requires that we worship in spirit and truth.

A. In Spirit

Old Testament worship and ordinances are called "fleshly." Speaking of the regulations given by the law of Moses, the Hebrew writer says, *"concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation."* (Hebrews 9:10) The King James Version calls the "fleshly ordinances" *"carnal ordinances."* The animal sacrifices, drink offerings, feast days, washings, etc could not take away sins. The temple was made with stones, the music was with choirs and instrumental music.

when God is praised. Our hearts must accompany our singing.

Questions

38. When worshipping God we must sing _____, _____
and _____ songs.
39. T F We must sing only the words of the Bible.
40. T F All in the congregation are to sing to one another.
41. T F Singing in worship is for entertainment.
42. T F The songs should teach what the Bible teaches.
43. T F Only those with good voices should sing.
44. T F We should sing praises to God.
45. T F We must make melody with our hearts to the Lord.

V. Things the New Testament does not authorise us to do in worship.

From our study I hope you can see that there are some things we must not do in singing to God. Everything we do must be *"in the name of the Lord Jesus."* (Colossians 3:17) That means that everything we do must be by His authority, and His authority is found only in the New Testament. Anything which Jesus does not authorise in the New Testament is something the Christian must not do.

In worship to God in song we are all told to sing, and we are told the purpose of the singing. There are several things which are left out and are therefore not authorised. They are things we cannot do in the name of Jesus. They are things that are sinful.

A Sing merely for entertainment

The purpose of singing spiritual songs is to teach and admonish one another and to give thanks to God. The purpose is not to entertain one another. The purpose of choirs and soloists is to entertain. In some places applause follows their performances. Such entertainment is a misuse of spiritual songs and has no place in the worship of God.

When we sing spiritual songs we should mean what we speak. To use those words, sometimes speaking the name of God, merely to entertain people is very wrong.

but for edification. We must select songs which fulfill these purposes. The words must teach what the Bible teaches. The tune should help us teach the words. We must use wisdom in our singing. Sometimes song leaders choose songs which have almost no teaching, or songs with catchy tunes which detract from the words. At other times songs of praise and joy are sung so slowly that the message of the songs is ruined by the way they are sung. Songs are sometimes chosen simply because of their tunes, and sometimes the words actually teach error. Our singing is important. We must be careful to teach and admonish one another.

Since we are teaching one another, we should sing carefully. Each one should concentrate on the words to understand them. Then he should sing them so they truly teach. Each should pronounce the words carefully and sing out in a loud enough voice so his singing blends with the singing of the others.

The Bible does not say we need good voices in order to sing. The important thing is the teaching. That can be done whether we sing beautifully or not. Everyone should sing because everyone should be teaching.

3. Giving thanks to God

When we sing we sing to one another AND to God. “*Singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord*” (Ephesians 5:19) “*singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*” (Colossians 3:16)

Many of our songs are addressed to Jesus and to the Heavenly Father. Since the hearts of Christians are full of thankfulness, songs of praise and thanksgiving make up a large part of our singing. We come close to experiencing the joys of heaven when we pour out our hearts in praise to God in song.

C. What must accompany our singing—our hearts.

Colossians 3:16 says, “*singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*” Ephesians 5:19 says, “*singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.*”

The word translated “making melody” is the word used when referring to a musical instrument. The instrument which accompanies our singing is not mechanical—it is the heart. The heart is the inner man which includes the mind of man, his will and his desire. When we sing it is not just the outer man who is singing with the voice, it is the inner man who is also accompanying that voice. The heart means the words which the tongue is singing. The heart is full of love

New Testament worship is different in nature; it is spiritual. The temple is the church, made up of people. There is not a separate priesthood, for all Christians are priests, and they have been cleansed by the sprinkling of the blood of Christ on their hearts and by having their bodies washed in the water of baptism (Hebrews 10:22). Our bodies are living sacrifices (Romans 12:1). Our spiritual worship in song is a “*sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*” (Hebrews 13:15) When we come together to eat the Lord’s Supper, we do not come to fill our stomachs. We eat, but not for that purpose; we eat in order to remember Jesus and set forth His death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Fleshly worship is gone. We now must worship God in spirit.

B. In Truth

In Colossians 2:14-17 Paul teaches that we are not to keep the law of Moses because it was nailed to the cross. In verses 16-17 he writes: “*So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.*” The things by which the Jews worshipped God were not the “*substance*”; they were only shadows of what was going to come with the New Covenant. Now that we have Christ’s covenant, we have the truth—the substance. We are no longer to follow the shadow—the feast days, the sabbath day, the food laws—because the things which they foreshadowed have come. Now we have Christ and the true worship.

This makes it important that we do NOT go to the Old Testament to find out how to worship God. That law gave animal sacrifices, incense burning, instrumental music, choirs, dancing, feast days, sabbath days, and many other things which are not given in the New Testament. Those things were the *shadow* and we must turn from them. The New Testament contains the worship in spirit and truth.

In Colossians 3:17 Paul writes: “*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*” He must tell us what to do; we must have His authority. It is not enough to cite the authority of Moses. The law of Moses with its shadows is not our law today—it does not contain the true worship. We must come to Jesus and find His authority for what we do. When we do that, we will worship in truth.

Questions:

5. T F God wants us to worship in the same way as the Jews worshipped under the Old Testament.
6. T F The woman at the well asked Jesus about the place for worshipping God.
7. T F The Jews were required to worship God at the temple in Jerusalem.
8. T F Christians must go to Jerusalem to worship God.
9. T F The Old Testament had regulations for the body (carnal ordinances).
10. T F Animal sacrifices took away sins.
11. T F The temple of the New Testament is made with men's hands.
12. T F Christians are priests.
13. T F New Testament worship is spiritual.
14. T F The Old Testament laws were a shadow.
15. T F New Testament worship is the shadow.
16. T F To worship in truth, we must do what the New Testament says.

III. The five acts of worship

In examining the New Testament we find that there are five different things which can be classed as “acts of worship.” In each case they are different from Old Testament worship. Four of these acts are found in Acts 2:42: “*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*” The fifth act is the singing Paul commands in Ephesians 5:19.

1. The teaching of the apostles.

When we gather together (Hebrews 10:25) we must teach one another. This is why evangelists, pastors, and teachers were given to the church (Ephesians 4:11-12). The teaching must be “*the apostles' teaching*”, not the teachings of men (see Matthew 15:9). Our aim is to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and that means we must be taught exactly what the apostles have written.

Paul wrote, “*Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says.*” Women are not to be the speakers in the church. A woman may teach a man privately (Acts 18:24-26), and women are to teach other women (Titus 2:3-5) and children.

2. Fellowship (Giving our money)

Since fellowship means “to take part in, or share,” giving our money is a way in

In the “Introduction” of this lesson we noticed some of the contrasts contained in the verses we are studying (5:15-21). One of the contrasts is the difference between those who are filled with wine and those who are filled with the Spirit. Both groups sing, but their songs and their reasons for singing are completely opposite. The drunkard sings worldly, sinful songs for the purpose of entertainment. Ephesians 5:19 tells us what the Christian must do.

A. What we must sing—psalms, hymns, spiritual songs.

It is sometimes difficult to separate these three kinds of songs from each other, but it is not difficult to see the difference between these songs and the songs of the world. When worshipping God we are to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. **Psalms** are poems like those found in the Book of Psalms. A **hymn** is a song of praise addressed to God. **Spiritual songs** are the opposite of worldly songs; they are songs concerning spiritual things.

It is important that when we worship God we sing these songs. We are free to choose what we sing as long as the songs are of this class. Some denominations say we must sing only the words of the Bible, but Paul does not say this. Another denomination sings psalms but refuses to sing hymns and spiritual songs. Those denominations have made rules where God made none.

B. Why we must sing—speaking to one another, teaching and admonishing one another, giving thanks.

1. Speaking to one another

The singing Paul here commands is “one to another” singing; “*speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.*” Everyone is to participate, singing to the others. Choirs and solos do not fulfill the requirement. When we gather together we are all to sing. This is congregational singing, not choir singing.

2. Teaching and admonishing one another

The reason for our speaking to one another in song is given in Colossians 3:16: “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*” We are to teach and admonish one another.

Our songs must be teaching songs. They are not for the purpose of entertainment,

Ephesians 5:19 tells us to sing. “*speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*” Since this admonition is found in Ephesians, we will examine singing in detail in the next section.

Questions

17. The five acts of worship are: 1 _____ 2 _____
3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
18. T F The doctrines of men will save us.
19. T F Women should be preachers in the church.
20. T F The older women should teach younger women. (Titus 2:3-5)
21. T F Christians are to give on the first day of the week.
22. T F Christians must pay dues to the church each month.
23. T F The Christian is to give as he has been prospered.
24. T F The church should raise money by selling cakes.
25. T F The Christian gives because of his love for God.
26. T F Christians must come together on the first day of the week to break bread.
27. T F During the Passover the Jews ate bread with yeast in it.
28. T F Christians show forth the death of Christ when they eat the Lord’s Supper.
29. T F The bread miraculously changes into the flesh of Jesus when the Lord’s Supper is celebrated.
30. T F The example in the New Testament shows us that Christians ate the Lord’s Supper every first day of the week.
31. T F God listens to the prayers of all people.
32. T F If a man teaches false doctrine, God will not hear his prayers.
33. T F If a person who is not baptized prays, God will forgive him of his sins without baptism.
34. T F Women should lead prayers in the public assembly.
35. T F All should pray different prayers out loud at the same time.
36. T F We must confess our sins to the pastor or priest in order to gain forgiveness.
37. T F God requires us to kneel when we pray.

IV. How to worship God in singing

which we share in the work. In the beginning days of the church at Jerusalem “*Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.*” (Acts 4:34-35) Years later the church at Jerusalem again had a number of poor saints to take care of, more than they could care for with their own money. Paul urged other churches to send money for them. Here is how he told them to gather the money: “*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*” (1 Corinthians 16:1,2)

Christians are to give on the first day of the week so that they can have fellowship in doing the work of the church. We are to give liberally and cheerfully, as we have purposed in our hearts (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

Christians giving on the first day of the week—this is the only way the church is to raise money. Christ gave no instructions to ask other people to give money to the church, or for the church to have cake sales or dinners in order to raise money. The money is to come from the members as they give on the first day of the week.

The Old Testament required the Jews to give a tithe (one tenth); the New Testament does not tell us how much to give. The Christian is to give “as he has been prospered,” therefore the one who makes more money is expected to give more money; but God has placed on each of us the responsibility of determining how much to give. It is “as he has purposed in his heart.” The Christian will seek to give much, not little, and he will give because of his love for God, not because of the pressure from men.

3. The Breaking of Bread (The Lord’s Supper)

In Acts 20:7 we are told: “*Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight*” This verse shows that the reason Christians are to gather on the first day of the week is “to break bread.”

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 tells the story of how Jesus gave us the Lord’s Supper. From those verses we know that we are to eat the bread (unleavened, because only unleavened bread was eaten at the Passover when Jesus gave these

instructions) in remembrance of His body on the cross. We are to drink the fruit of the vine (grape juice) in remembrance of His blood that was shed. When we do this we show forth His death until He comes again.

This feast is called “sharing” or “communion” in the body and blood of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16). It is a great privilege for the Christian, and every Christian should desire to eat the Lord’s Supper with his brethren every first day of the week. This is the only “feast” in which Christians are to worship God. The sacrifices of the Old Testament have been abolished.

There is nothing magic in the bread or the fruit of the vine. The Roman Catholics teach that at the “Mass” a miracle takes place and the bread becomes the literal flesh of Jesus and the fruit of the vine becomes the literal blood of Jesus, even though people cannot see the change. Jesus and the apostles did not teach such a doctrine. The bread is still bread and the fruit of the vine is still fruit of the vine. They help us represent the body and blood of Jesus. If we eat the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Jesus, we are brought near to Him in thought and we share in blessings. We share with Him and all others in the work of preaching and living by the cross of Christ.

Denominations do not usually serve the Lord’s Supper each first day of the week. They think it is not necessary. In the book, “The New Testament Doctrine of the Church,” by J.Clyde Turner published for Baptist churches, he says on p.76, “In the church at Troas the supper seems to have been observed each week on the Lord’s Day.” Then he quotes Acts 20:7 (see above). However, since Baptist churches do not observe the Lord’s Supper each Lord’s Day as the church at TROAS did, he gives this excuse: “If observed too frequently, it may become commonplace, a mere formal service.” By human reasoning the Baptists have set aside the plain example of the New Testament. So have the other denominations.

The church of the Lord is guided by the words of the apostles, not by the teachings of men; therefore the members of the Lord’s church gather EACH first day of the week to eat the Lord’s Supper.

4. Prayer

The privilege of prayer is one of the great spiritual blessings granted to those who are in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). God listens to the prayers of His children. “*For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers;*

But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.” (1 Peter 3:12) For this reason Paul exhorts us “*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God*” (Philippians 4:6) And John writes: “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”

However, God does not listen to the prayers of all people. He will not hear those who are evil and will not repent of their sins (John 9:31). Those who teach for doctrines the teachings of men worship God in vain (Matthew 15:9). Those who pray without faith cannot expect to get anything (James 1:5-7). Those who seek forgiveness of sins without obeying Christ in baptism are not asking according to His will and will not be answered (1 John 5:14). Prayer is for the Christian who is seeking to please Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul wrote: *Pray without ceasing.*” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) So the Christian prays in private (Matthew 6:6), and Christians pray when they are together (Acts 12:12). When we pray together, “*I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*” The men are the ones to pray out loud in as assembly. “*Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.*” (1 Timothy 2:11)

In our praying, one man is to pray and the others are to listen so they can say the “Amen” If the man prays in a language which some do not understand, the prayer should be interpreted (1 Corinthians 14:13-17). The practice of some denominations in which all who are in the assembly pray different prayers out loud at the same time is clearly in violation of what Paul wrote in this passage.

Since all Christians are priests (1 Peter 2:9), we have the privilege of confessing our sins to God without having to confess them to a man who will pray for us. (See 1 John 1:9) It is wrong to teach that we must confess our sins to pastor or priest in order to receive forgiveness.

As long as we are respectful, the posture in prayer is not important. In the Bible we find people praying while standing (Luke 18:10-13), sitting (Nehemiah 1:4), kneeling (Acts 20:36), lying down (Matthew 26:39), with hands stretched out (1 Timothy 2:8). The Bible does not say we must close our eyes while praying.

5. Singing