



Hebron Herald

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Here's the problem: If all life's activities are worship, then where is the uniqueness of gathering on Sunday? True worship loses its reverence. How can a group of men and women gather on the first day of the week, partake of the Lord's supper, pray, sing, etc., and feel that it is indeed a special time in the presence of God when they think every moment of every day is special time before God? If everything is special and unique, then nothing is special or unique.

Satan's agenda has long been to convince us that worshipping God is a casual activity; something to which we may give no more thought than putting on socks. Instead of being more reverent, worship becomes common when we believe everything we do in service to God is worship.

- Steven F. Deaton

Worship & Service In The Kingdom

Any who believe in the Bible, Jesus Christ, and heaven, will admit a need to worship and serve God. He seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and truth (Jn. 4:23, 24). He commands men to serve Him (Lk. 1:74; Matt. 4:10). Some fail to recognize the difference in the two.

Many of our denominational friends tell us that everyday life is worship. If they help an old lady across the street, they are worshipping God. One has even said that changing her baby's diapers is a form of worship to God because she is doing as God commands (Titus 2:4, 5). These and similar activities are not worship, they are service. Worship in the Bible is a distinct activity, separated from the everyday events of life.

Abraham was told to sacrifice his son Isaac. When he arrived near the place it was to be done, he told his servants, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you" (Gen. 22:5). He made a distinction between what he was doing in fulfillment of the command (preparation, traveling) and worship offered to God (sacrifice of his son).

In the Old Testament, worship is pictured as a unique activity, not ordinary daily life in submission to God (Ex. 24:1; 1 Sam. 1:3). Likewise, worship is a distinct action in the New Testament. Jesus said, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve" (Matt. 4:10). Worship is a part of service, but service is not necessarily worship.

If all service to the Lord is worship, then is a husband engaged in worship when he renders to his wife the "affection due her" (1 Cor. 7:3-5)? Do we worship God when we submit to a harsh and overbearing employer (1 Pet. 2:18, 19)? Is working at the factory or on the farm worship (Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:8)?

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GOSPEL MEETING WITH JOHN ISAAC EDWARDS	SEPTEMBER 19-24 SUNDAY: 9:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY: 10:00 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.
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- Assemblies**
- Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m.
 - Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
- Elders**
- Tom Brown 502-921-2778
 - Laymon Byers 502-957-3627
 - John Smith 502-231-5341
- Evangelists**
- Ron Halbrook 502-955-1748
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GOSPEL MEETING WITH JOHN ISAAC EDWARDS SEPTEMBER 19-24
DETAILS ON BACK

Let The Church Be The Church

The Church: Distinct from the School

The school conducted by Christians may do some things the church does, but is not the church. The school may make arrangements to sing, to pray, to study the Bible, and to disseminate truth in every way possible. What the school does is an extension of the home and of the state in preparing young people for life (Eph. 6:4; Rom. 13:1). This is no substitute for the work of the church and is not in competition with the church.

Such schools must also guard against going into apostasy or abusing the role God has given to them. For instance, a school should not attempt to serve as "a missionary society," taking donations from churches in order to teach the Bible and other subjects to its students, or to selecting fields of endeavor and providing financial support to send men to these fields. Let the school be the school and let the church be the church.

The Church: Distinct from a Business

A business conducted by Christians may do some things the church does, but is not the church. The business may make arrangements to sing, to pray, to study the Bible, and to disseminate truth in every way possible. The business is an extension of the individual, whether acting independently or in concert with others, in making an honorable living (Eph. 4:28). This is no substitute for the church and is not in competition with the church.

Such businesses must also guard against going into apostasy or abusing the role God has given to them. For instance, a business should not attempt to serve as "a missionary society," taking donations from churches and then selecting fields of endeavor and providing financial support to send men to these fields. Let the business be the business and let the church be the church.

The Church: Distinct from *Every Other Effort*

The church is distinct from every other effort and every other organization in performing its own work through its own organization. We are thankful for every legitimate effort to disseminate and teach the truth of God's Word. In the past years, schools began the day with Bible reading and prayer. Families have often opened their homes to conduct monthly Bible studies for young people. Businesses conducted by Christians sometimes make Bible study materials available to customers or invite a preacher to teach weekly Bible lessons for interested employees. Several Christians have combined their funds to rent meeting rooms at motels for gospel preaching in places where the true gospel is unknown. Athens Bible School in Athens, AL and Florida College in Temple Terrace, FL have taught Bible classes, conducted daily devotionals, and presented Bible lectureships through the years. A group of brethren associated with R. J. Stevens has conducted an annual singing school, utilizing the facilities of a defunct college. Businesses which produce or market Bibles, songbooks, tracts, magazines, and books occasionally provide complimentary samples or give away outdated and damaged materials in an effort to disseminate the truth.

Countless other examples could be added, but none of these efforts is a substitute for the daily ongoing responsibility of each and every local church to press forward in doing its own work through its own organization as "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). The examples and efforts enumerated above do not diminish or detract from the duty of local churches to sound out the word of the Lord during regular worship periods, Bible classes, singing schools, gospel meetings, radio programs, special lectureships, and other endeavors. No one of the activities listed above, nor all of them combined, diminishes the unique role, organization, and glory of the local church in God's plan for the redemption of the world.

Let individuals, families, schools, and various business and service organizations do their best to please God and to bless the world. But, first and foremost, emphatically, we must remember this imperative: *Let the church be the church!*

- Ron Halbrook

"To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen."

- Eph. 3:21