

“PUBLIC PRAYER – SOME PRINCIPLES”

INTRODUCTION:

A. Text: 1 Cor. 14:14-19.

B. Regarding the text: (Corinth...problems w/prayer)

1. Prayer is an important part of the Christian's life. (BOTH Private and Public.)
 - 1) In the New Testament, one of the things the saints did when they assembled was to pray. **Acts 2:42** “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” **Acts 12:12** “And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.”

C. Prayer, like all of the acts of worship should be done according to the Lord's will, by His authority.

1. **John 4:24** worship in “spirit & in truth.”
2. If we do not examine ourselves from time to time, problems could arise in our own praying together as a congregation.

DISCUSSION: WE WILL EXAMINE SOME PRINCIPLES...

I. LEADING PRAYER IS A SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY.

A. Since we are speaking to God the Father...There should be a feeling of awe and reverence. **Heb. 12:28-29 “... let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.”**

B. Leading a prayer is to approach God for the congregation.

1. Prayer leaders must be *faithful* members of the church.
 - 1) **Proverbs 15:29; 28:9.**
 - 2) **Isaiah 59:1-2.**
 - 3) **John 9:31.**
2. We must be in fellowship with God for our prayers to be heard.

II. KINDS OF PRAYERS.

A. In prayer we are communicating with God.

1. Prayers are to have a purpose.
2. They should be from the heart.

B. Our prayers communicate different things.

1. **PRAISE: **Ps. 107:32.****
2. **FOR FORGIVENESS: **1 John 1:9; Psalm 32:5.****
3. **THANKSGIVING & REQUESTS: **Phil. 4:6.****
4. **INTERCESSIONS: **James 5:16.****

C. When leading a congregational prayer REMEMBER the NEEDS as well as the OCCASION for the prayer.

1. During the LORD'S SUPPER.
2. This prayer should focus on the Lord's Supper (Not on the sick, etc.)

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER.

A. Each one is important.

1. **REVERENT RESPECT: **Matt. 6:9.****
2. **SINCERE, FROM THE HEART: **Matt. 6:7.**** (Avoid saying the same prayer each time we pray.)

3. **HUMBLE:** **Matt. 6:5; Luke 18:11.**
4. **BELIEVING:** **James 1:6** “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.”
5. **ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL:** **Col. 3:17.**
6. **NOTICE:** **James 5:16.**
 - 1) Effectual fervent (one word in original: *energheo* = energetic heart felt.)
 - 2) “... righteous man” (**Isa. 59:1-2; Ps. 66:18; John 9:31.**)

B. Prayer is to be done according to scriptural truths.

1. **Praying to God the Father not to Jesus** (**John 16:23**).
2. **Led by men (in mixed audiences)** **1 Tim. 2:12.**
3. **Expressing truth.** (Sometimes during the L/S in prayer the expression. “Representing *thy body*” or “*thy blood*.”)

IV. CONCLUSION:

- A. **Prayer is a part of our worship to God. Our minds and actions are the demonstration of our worship.**
- B. **Praying together is a wonderful part of our collective worship.**
- C. **It should have a powerful impact upon our lives** (**READ Acts 4:23-31**).

V. APPEAL: