

“PUBLIC PRAYER”

8-9-2026 AM

INTRO.:

A. Text: 1 Cor. 14:15-19.

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

1. Prayer is an important part of the Christian's life. (BOTH Private and Public.)
2. In the New Testament, when the saints came together, they prayed (**Acts 2:42; Acts 12:12**).

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.

1. There should be a feeling of awe and reverence.
2. **Hebrews 12:28-29.**

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 have a purpose.
2. They should be from the heart.

B. Our prayers communicate different things.

1. **PRAISE: Psalm 107:32** “Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.”
2. **FOR FORGIVENESS: 1 John 1:9; Psalm 32:5.**
3. **THANKSGIVING & REQUESTS: Philippians 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.
 - 1) This prayer should focus on the Lord's Supper. (Not on the sick, etc.)
 - 2) This prayer should focus on the sacrifice of Christ.

III. CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER.

A. Each one is important.

1. **REVERENT RESPECT: Matthew 6:9** “... Hallowed be thy name.”
2. **SINCERE, FROM THE HEART: Matthew 6:7.** Avoid saying the same prayer.
3. **HUMBLE:** never exalting oneself (**Matthew 6:5; Luke 18:11**)
4. **BELIEVING: James 1:6** “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.”
5. **ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL: Colossians 3:17.**
6. **SPEAKING LOUD ENOUGH FOR ALL TO HEAR THE PRAYER:** The prayer leader is praying for the congregation. Thus, everyone should hear what is being said.

B. NOTICE: James 5:16 “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

- 1) Effectual fervent. (one word in original: energheo = energetic heart felt.)
- 2) “righteous man” (**Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18; John 9:31**).

C. Prayer is to be done according to truth.

1. **Praying to God the Father not to Jesus (John 16:23)**

- 1) **1 Timothy 2:8** “I will therefore that *men* pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”
- 2) MEN (*anēr* means male. *anthrōpos* means mankind).

2. **Expressing truth.** Sometimes during the L/S in prayer the expression. “Representing *thy body*,” “*thy blood*” or “*thy table*.”

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.

1. It should have a powerful impact upon our lives.
2. **READ Acts 4:23-25,**