

The Oologah Informer

May 7th, 2017

Should We Sing During the Lord's Supper

From the "Truth for the World" Website

Part 3 of 3

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.

Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Spiritual Blindness

(**John 9:35-41**)

PM Sermon

I will come Again

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Characters of the O.T.

Wednesday Bible Class:

Proverbs 3 – R. Earl

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

The Truth in Love on Channel 47

Sundays @ 8am

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Paul concluded with several directives.

- All things offered in the assembly should be for edification (I Corinthians 14:26).

- No more than two or three people should speak in tongues and then only if an interpreter is present.

- Moreover, each must speak in turn, that is, one at a time (I Corinthians 14:27-28).

- Similarly, the prophets were told to keep silent while another is prophesying so that all may hear, learn and be exhorted (I Corinthians 14:29-31).

The two guiding principles in context are that God is not a God of confusion but of peace (I Corinthians 14:33), and all things must be done in an orderly manner (I Corinthians 14:40).

So what does I Corinthians 14 have to do with the issue of singing while partaking of the Lord's Supper? If we are speaking to, teaching and admonishing one another (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16) when we sing, then we must be listening and concentrating on the words. I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also [or mind] (I Corinthians 14:15). However, when we partake of the Lord's Supper, we are to be communing with Jesus and having a period of individual, personal self-examination (I Corinthians 11:28) during this special time of remembrance and proclamation. ***It is simply impossible for an individual to properly execute both acts of worship at the same time since they have different requirements.*** While it may be possible to select a meaningful song that centers on the death of Jesus, being only human, we cannot give due attention to all these activities at once. We cannot carry a tune, sing the written words of the song, listen to what the members around you are singing, acknowledge the sins in your life along with the price that has been paid for your redemption, assess your attitude, have appreciation and awareness of just what Jesus has done for you personally, etc. Similarly, if we are properly attentive to the conduct of the Lord's Supper, then we must be neglecting the singing. So what are our choices? **One**, we can sing in spirit and mind and neglect certain aspects of the Lord's Supper, that is, partaking in any unworthy manner, and thereby sin (I Corinthians 11:27) or, **Two**, we can partake of the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner and neglect certain aspects of the singing, that is, not singing in mind and spirit, and thereby sin (I Corinthians 14:15). But, these are not real choices for they both lead us to sin.

Moreover, it is even worse than this for the following reasons:

1. If we sing while others are partaking of the Lord's Supper, then we are willfully obstructing those who are trying to follow the safe path, that is, choosing not to sing and instead to focus properly on all aspects of the Lord's Supper.
2. If we combine worship activities, we are violating the intent of Paul's directive to do things one by one, in turn, in order (I Corinthians 14:27, 31), since we have some people speaking to others who are trying to examine themselves.
3. By having communion (giving due attention to all its aspects) while singing together, we are promoting confusion which is in direct conflict with I Corinthians 14:33.
4. If we partake and sing at the same time, we are not doing things properly and in an orderly manner. This violates I Corinthians 14:40.
5. If we accept this practice of combining things, we establish a precedent and bind the tradition of men on all in the worship assembly, like it or not, contrary to the teaching of Matthew 15:1-10.
6. Requiring this of everyone will deny some faithful brethren the opportunity to partake of the Lord's Supper in the assembly as they must simply refuse to participate.
7. Requiring this of everyone will force some to sin as they participate in violation of their conscience and feeling guilty because whatsoever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23).

These considerations show that it is not acceptable to combine singing with partaking of the Lord's Supper. There is no indication that the first century Christians either taught or practiced such. Moreover, lacking the spiritual authority for doing so, there is simply no justification for placing souls at risk. In light of the teaching, what would motivate people to promote such things? Is our worship designed to please men or to please God (Galatians 1:10)? Are we unwilling to submit to God's will? Is it a matter of pride? If the congregation is not satisfied with partaking of the Lord's Supper during a period of thoughtful meditation in silence, then the problem and solution do not reside with the ears but rather with the heart (Matthew 15:19). May God help us to grow and always seek out and yield to His will in all things.