

BENEFITS OF CORPORATE WORSHIP (Pt 2)

1 Corinthians 14:23-26 (niv) So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? ²⁴ But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, ²⁵ as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!” ²⁶ What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

PAUL IS CONVEYING THAT CORPORATE WORSHIP IS PASSIONATE.

...So if the whole church comes together (vs 23)

...When you come together (vs 26)

Greek word translated as *come together* is *sunerchomai*. *sun* - **united** and *erchomai* - **to come**.

It was commonly used for sexual relations between a married couple - a coming together.

1 Corinthians 7:5 (nlt) “Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from

*sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should **come together again** (sunerchomai) so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control."*

Paul uses the same Greek word *sunerchomai* for both marital relations and Christian worship!

But why?

1. Paul points out that a Christian congregation should never be just an audience.
2. Paul insisted that their coming together was done in love and in unity of heart.

BIG IDEA: Corporate worship is to be passionate and in unity of heart towards the Lord.

PAUL IS CONVEYING THAT CORPORATE WORSHIP INVOLVES EVERYONE.

*1 Corinthians 14:26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you (all) **COME TOGETHER, EVERYONE** (each one) has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.*

Paul promotes the ideal that they came together, not to be ministered to, but to minister.

Paul says their main focus was to worship, honour, and to glorify God, in all things giving Jesus first place in everything.

*Colossians 1:18 (gw) He (Jesus) is also the head of the church, which is His body. He is the beginning, the first to come back to life so that He would have **first place in everything**.*

A local church can best achieve vibrant spirit filled worship when it functions like a *living body* (1 Corinthians 12 & 14)

EACH AND ALL PRINCIPLE

*1 Corinthians 12:7a A spiritual gift is given to **EACH** of us so we can help **EACH** other...*

*1 Corinthians 12:11-14 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have **ALL** been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we **ALL** share the same Spirit. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.*

*1 Corinthians 12:18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put **EACH** part just where he wants it.*

*1 Corinthians 12:27 **ALL** of you together are Christ's body, and **EACH** of you is a part of it.*

*1 Corinthians 14:26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you (all) **COME TOGETHER, EVERYONE** (each*

one) has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation...

“EACH”

Worship is like a symphony, not a solo performance, but a harmony of many individuals brought into one melody.

The Greek word **“sumphoneo”** – **to sound together** in agreement, in accord, primarily of musical instruments. (symphony) - harmony, unity and balance.

Matthew 18:19-20 Jesus used the word *“agree”* (**sumphoneo**).

*“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth **AGREE** about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”*

(See also Matthew 20:2, Matthew 20:13; Acts 5:9)

Paul insists that *each* believer must find some active part to play in the church, and especially in its worship.

“ALL”

In the church **each** has a place, you and I must occupy it for the *common good (12:7)* and for the *strengthening of the church (14:26)*.

All must play their part for the benefit of **each** part.

Each and **all** must do **all** for the glory of God.

A Spirit-filled church truly functions only when we are all in our proper places, fulfilling our appointed God-given potential, using the gifts we have received, for the benefit of the entire church, and to continually honour our Lord.