

Worship in the New Testament

Early Christian Attitude toward the worship of Judaism

Similarities

Use of Jewish Scripture: LXX

Temple: Sacrifice → Catholic Judaism

Synagogue: The Word- Reading and instruction
→ Quaker Judaism

1. Jesus' Reaction

1) He participated in both the Temple and Synagogue worship.

A. Temple

- a. Often present in the Temple
- b. Concerned about the sanctity of the Temple
- c. Claims it for Himself
- d. Yet no evidence that He ever offered sacrifice at the Temple.

Temple as place of Prayer and communion with God.

- e. He was the Lord of the sanctuary

B. Synagogue

His normal custom - Participated in the worship on the Sabbath at the Synagogue.

C. Passover Celebration

2) Participation in the Worship, but also depart from the Temple.

- A. Cleansing of the Temple: Rejection of the sacrificial system?
- B. Himself greater than the Temple
- C. The New order and the new temple replaces the old.

3) Implication

- A. No fixed place and form for worship (John 4)
- B. Jesus as fulfillment of all

Himself.

- a. He pointed the Temple and Synagogue (Luke 4:16-30) to

- b. He applied the Passover to Himself.

- C. He is the Lord of all.

- a. He assumed the right to interpret the Scriptures.
- b. He determined what's clean and unclean.
- c. He is the Lord of the Sabbath
- d. He determined what is fasting and prayer.

D. In every place, He proclaimed Himself and indicated significant changes in the Jewish pattern of worship.

2. Earliest Christians

1) Worship of Judaism

A. Continued to participate in the Temple and the Synagogue worship.

- a. The Temple as the place of prayer: No mention of sacrifice
- b. Frequent Synagogue
- c. Maintain the Sabbath observance
- d. Keep Jewish festivals
- e. Practice circumcision alongside baptism.

B. As Varied as Judaism

a. Two Types of Christians

Aramaic Christians	Hellenistic Christians
Temple worship	Renounced Jewish Ritualism
Zealous for the Jewish law and custom	Jesus replaced the Temple and Jewish rituals.
Caught in attention being both Jew and Christian.	Temple replaced by the body of Christ (Eph 2:19-27)
	Royal priesthood of Christians
	Strike Jewish people harder (Heb 7-11): Make Jewish sacrificial system obsolete. The sacrifice already offered by Christ, once for all.
	Believers offer only sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving. Sacrifice themselves (Rom 12)

b. The whole idea of the Jewish Christian was not clear until Peter's vision.

c. Strong desire of freedom by the Gentile Christians.
Paul stresses order (1 Cor)

- d. Role of the Holy Spirit became prominent.
- e. Misunderstanding of the Lord's Supper and doctrine.

Distinctive Christian Pattern of worship then developed.: Three things

1. Christ-centered

1) People of the Messiah (Act 29)

2) Focus on the 2nd Exodus

Christ's Redeeming Death and Resurrection. (the OT- Exodus and Sinai covenant as focus)

3) The Word is given a new meaning in the light of Christ.: Hold on to the old but a new meaning

A. No fixed places or set-rituals of the worship

a. Destruction of the Temple and Expulsion from the Synagogue→
Only distinctive Christian pattern left

b. Christ's presence among the believers→Believers as the Temple,
corporate and individual

B. What Christ did and does made impact.

2. Spirit-inspired

1) Christ present to us through the Spirit.

2) Worship in Spirit and Truth

: When the Spirit is present, the true worship is possible.

3) Because of the Holy Spirit, we are the Temple of God.

4) Christ intercedes for us through the Spirit.

3. Built around the Lord's Supper and Preaching.

1) Lord's Supper

: The Center of the New Testament worship. Gave the Passover death a new meaning.

2) Still evolves around foods.

: After fellowship meal, Lord's Supper is served at home.

3) Distinctively corporate nature

: Not spectator but full participation in the meal.

4) Special intention of Jesus' Words had a sacramental meaning. "This do in remembrance of me."

A. Preaching of Christ's death and resurrection along with the meal.

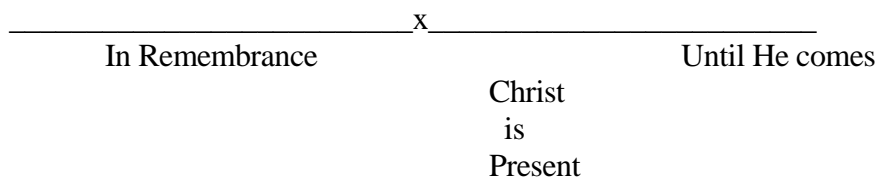
The Word and the Meal

B. Two aspects

- a. Look back Christ' events
- b. Look forward to the 2'nd coming

C. Informal

The Lord's Supper



5) No specific place of worship or cultic apparatus
: Meaning came from the events.

6) Eucharist and mission became fused together: In the world, Christians broke the bread together

Importance of Christ's death and resurrection.

Still in common with the OT

: Worship in awe and mystery. Lift voice to God in psalms. Bow down, prostrate before God

1. Biblical Expression: LXX terms used
2. Called by God in order to be the worshipping community.
3. God's characters and actions-bases of Christian worship
 - 1) In His characters
 - A. Living God
 - B. Holy God
 - C. Gracious God (1 Pet 2:6; Heb 7:5)
 - D. Unique (Rev 4:10-11; 5:13)
 - 2) In His acts

- A. Giver of gracious gifts
- B. Our worship is the response to God's gift. Mighty act of redemption.

4. Elements of forms of worship

1) Prayers

- A. Formal and Informal
- B. Standing, later kneeling

2) Praise: Formal and Informal (1 Cor 14:26)

3) Music: Hymns and psalms - Important events

4) Scripture reading: Chanting and sung, read

5. Scripture interpretation or comment

: Synagogue pattern, although it's more authoritative.

6. Creedal statement

7. Doxologies and Amen

Distinctive Christian Worship Style

1. Replacement

- A. Confession replaced the sacraments.
- B. The Lord's Supper replaced sacrifices.

2. Addition

- A. Spiritual songs and hymns added to psalms.
- B. Baptism, Speaking in tongues and its interpretation.

3. Change of Content

: Christian hymns were different.

4. More freedom and spontaneity