

**Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:**

Ray and Liz Sturgill are still recovering. Liz had her dialysis stint relocated this week, is receiving dialysis treatments at Spencer three times a week and home health care visits.

Sheila Wilson continues to receive chemotherapy at IU Health Martinsville and home healthcare visits.

Delores Hendrickson is back home and doing better following a brief hospitalization.

Jeff Sturgill is recovering at home from back surgery.

Bob Hawkins is scheduled for another outpatient procedure for a problem with veins in his legs.

Gerald Dunn, brother of Susie Riddle, is in a health care institution in Bedford and is experiencing memory issues.

Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some balance and hip problems. She has a follow-up appointment with her cardiologist.

Karen Sproles is still confined at home and is receiving home health services. Her husband Chet broke his leg but is now back home again.

Iris Hash is feeling better and is staying with her daughter.

John Richardson has been transferred to the Countryside Nursing Home in Avon, IN.

Terry Richardson is in rehab at The Waters in Martinsville.

Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, is still undergoing chemotherapy.

Haven Duncan is suffering from some issues while in the Army at Ft. Benning, GA.

Jessica Knoy, Dave and Tina's daughter-in-law's mother, is recovering from a stroke.

Sheila Eyster is in Florida.

**Pray For Our Shut-ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, Virginia McKinney

**Benevolent Works:**

Thanks to Sean and Christa Mathews and family for delivering food and gifts to the two local needy families that we chose to help. In addition, they delivered coffee that was donated to Desert Rose, the local women's shelter.

**Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:**

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru)

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next monthly pitch-in dinner will be held following the morning services on January 1. Following the meal, we will reconvene at 1:00 PM for an afternoon song service then will dismiss for the day.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, January 4th at 5:00 PM.

**Radio Program:**

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

**Note: For December 25<sup>th</sup> only, our radio program will air at 8:00 PM instead of AM.**

**God's Plan For Our Salvation:**

1. **Hearing** the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. **Believing** what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. **Repentance** (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. **Confession** (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. **Baptism** (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. **Faithful Christian Living**, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

December 25, 2022

***MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST***

**540 E. Morgan Street  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
(765) 342-6027**



**Schedule of Services:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

**Wednesday**

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

**Thursday**

Ladies Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

**Radio Program:**

“Preparing For Eternity”

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

**Website:**

[www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

# THE ASSEMBLY AND ACTS OF WORSHIP

Alan Adams

First Corinthians 11:17-16:9 contains a continuous, connected, composite of what we often call “the worship service,” “church,” “preaching,” and so on; in other words: THE ASSEMBLY. In this beautiful assembly collage, we see:  
The People of It —“whole church assembled together” (1 Cor. 14:23), men and women (1 Cor. 14:34-35);  
The Nature of It —“worship God...God is among you” (1 Cor. 14:25), “speak...to God” (1 Cor. 14:28) cf. “all here present before God” (Acts 10:33);  
The Place of It (“together...into one place,” 1 Cor. 11:20);  
The Purpose of It —“church [being] edify[ied]” (1 Cor. 14:5); and  
The Time of It (“the first day of every week” (1 Cor. 16:2, NASV).

## WHAT ARE PEOPLE TO DO IN THE ASSEMBLY?

Now, as to The Activities of It: A careful consideration of our text will show five separate and distinct acts. We say this with the complete awareness that there are those among us who literally scoff at the notion of any acts of worship, much less five specific ones. These are the same people who scoff at the plan of salvation and ridicule the “five-steppers.” The fact is, in both cases, it is a simple matter of arithmetic.

These activities of the assembly are “acts of reverence paid to God;” that is, they are acts of worship.

One, there is Hearing (“the word [voice] of the Lord“ cf. Isa. 28:14,23; Neh. 8:1-8) which is led by one who preaches (Acts 20:7) or speaks (1 Cor. 14:19).

A second act is the Lord’s Supper by which the assembly participates in an act, the goal of which is “remembrance of me” (1 Cor. 11:25).

A third is Singing (1 Cor. 14:15), which is to be done “to the Lord” (cf. Eph. 5:19).

Each of these acts takes place in an assembly gathered before God; and each act is uniquely “God-ward.” Not a single one of these acts is spectator oriented; rather, each is group-oriented, collective and participatory.

The New Testament knows nothing of an assembly wherein one or more do these “acts of worship,” while an audience of appreciative (even “edified”) spectators looks on. It is ironic that some Christians view First Corinthians fourteen, not as part of New Testament teaching on “the assembly,” but rather as a unique First Century gathering in which some of the assembled in essence performed. There is absolutely no warrant for such a conclusion. The “whole church assembled together” (1 Cor. 14:23) is a lovely example of collective, “joint participation” (fellowship). In the assembly, each Christian gathered, participates heart and soul, “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24), in each act of reverence to the glory of God.

A fourth assembly act of worship is that of Giving. Every so often, you come across someone who thinks he has discovered that the act of giving in the assembly is not an act of worship. But, just from a cursory perspective note this: 1) giving is surely an act, and, 2) it is an act (something we do) in the assembly. Yet, let us note

further.

First, that an act of giving, an offering of a portion of one’s material goods, can ever qualify as an act of worship, is seen in Matthew 2:11. The record says that when the wise men “...were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.” Surely, no one will dispute that these men from the East were giving a portion of their material goods; and that very act of giving was indeed and an act of worship.

Second, as regards “giving” in the assembly, consider carefully the context. We have an assembly of “the whole church” coming together on the “first day of every week.” Among the various activities of that assembly, each Christian (“every one of you”) was to “lay by him in store as God hath prospered him” (1 Cor. 16:2). We have a specific act, done at a specific time, and in a specific setting or place (“in the assembly”). It was done with a view toward and in consideration of how God “hath prospered” the giver.

This assembly, by its nature, was “God-ward” —gathered “before God.” Wouldn’t then, this divinely prescribed act, therefore be an “act of reverence paid to God?” Isn’t that precisely what worship is? “But,” one might demur, “Does it follow that anytime I take money from my pocket to give to a good cause or a needy person, I am, therefore, worshipping?” No. Such “giving” falls under the broad purview of Christian service. It is absent that “to-God” quality which constitutes it an “act of worship” in the assembly.

The fifth “act of worship” in which the assembly participates is Prayer. We pray “Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name” (Matt. 6:9). Prayer, we see, by its nature, is an act of worship whenever or wherever it is done. And, it is to be done in the assembly (1 Cor. 14:15-17; 2 Tim. 2:1,8).

So much more could, and should, be said about the assembly. There should be no doubt that the picture of THE ASSEMBLY painted by Paul in First Corinthians 11:17-16:9 gives the lie to:

The idea that the New Testament does not speak of “worship services“

The idea that the assembly, the one in which the five acts of worship are done, may be divided on any basis;

The idea that women may lead the assembly in its acts of worship —whether as speaker, prayer leader, song leader, translator, or with regard to giving or the Lord’s Supper;

The idea that part of the assembly may do the acts of worship while the rest watch and listen; and

The idea that an act of worship which is to be exclusively done in the assembly may be rightly done out of the assembly; and, of course,

The age-old idea that a person can get just as close to God out of the assembly as can all those people in the assembly.