

Unto Me

By Steve Pruitt

And the King will answer and say to them, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did do it to Me.

Matthew 25:40 NKJV

Often in our quest to define certain types of worship we will use terms such as Mosaic Worship, Davidic Worship, Lifestyle Worship, Evangelistic Worship, Messianic Worship and others. We often associate worship with music, singing, dancing, shouting, banners and preaching. Certainly these terms and expressions of worship are valid as we attempt to put into words how we should respond to the God we love, however there may be yet another aspect of worship that is easily overlooked.

Christ is the head of the church and we as Christians are his body. So, any act, for good or ill, that we perform toward members of Christ's body is rendered unto Christ. Worship is attesting to the "worth ship" of Christ. As we minister to members of Christ's body we express the value we place on Christ himself. That is why the Apostle Paul was so stern in his rebuke of the Corinthians for the way they were conducting the Lord's supper.

The purpose of the Lord's supper was for the church to remember the body of Christ which was broken for them and the blood of the new covenant that was shed for them. In doing so they would proclaim the Lord's death until he returns. However, the Corinthian church had made a mockery of the celebration in that, not only had they despised the Lord himself, they had also despised the less fortunate among them and in doing so had not properly discerned the Lord's body.

The Apostle James goes as far as to attach acts of kindness to the proof of our faith. The writer of Hebrews tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. We must conclude, therefore, that if we do not please God we cannot truly worship him. However, God is pleased, and may I add worshiped, when we confirm our faith through acts of kindness toward members of his body.

The Apostle John conveys the message that eternal life is dependant on our loving the brethren (1 John 3:14-15). We prove that we love God and the brethren each time we lay down our lives, with a pure heart, so that we can meet the needs of the brethren. Acts of love toward the brethren equals acts of love toward God. Acts of love toward God equals acts of worship.

How do you treat the body of Christ? Ask the Father to give you a genuine love for his body. Ask him to show you ways you can minister to him by ministering to his body.

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Scriptures for meditation:

- 1 Corinthians 8:12
- 1 Corinthians 11:20-30
- Matthew 25:31-45
- James 2:15-17
- Hebrews 11:6
- 1 John 3:14-17