

THE LOCAL CHURCH

Our Services: Decently & In Order

- I. **In our services there should be decency and order-1Co14:40-Let all things be done decently and in order; AM-All things must be done appropriately and in an orderly manner; ICB-Right; LEB-According to proper procedure**
 - A. There is behavior that is appropriate for gatherings and behavior that is not-Decently-Strong's-Decorously (Behavior suitable to the time and occasion); W1828-Decently-Behavior or speech proper for the occasion
 - B. There should be order in our services NOT chaos-Order-Thayer-Right order, orderly manner; W1828-Established mode of proceeding-The motion is not in order (Like a court of law-Out of order)
 1. Some think it's not the Holy Spirit if it's not wild
 - C. We want are services to be in line with the Word-We want nothing in our services that is not supposed to be
- II. **We want decency and order in our services because the presence of God is primary in our services and if we ignore what the Lord says in regards to our services it affects the degree with which we will see His presence manifest in our services-Jn14:21-He that has my commandments and keeps them, he it is that loves me: and he that loves me shall be moved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him; AMP-I will show, reveal, manifest myself to him. I will let myself be clearly seen by him and make myself real to him.**
 - A. We want to have services where the presence of God is strong
 1. We should desire the presence of God-Ex33:15-If your presence go not with me, carry us not up hence; Ps51:11-Cast me not away from your presence; and take not your holy spirit from me
 2. The presence of God is promised to the people of God-Ps140:13-The upright shall dwell in your presence
 3. God is always present everywhere-Ps139:7-10-Wither shall I go from your spirit? Or wither shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend up into heave you are there: if I make my bed in hell behold thou art there
 4. His presence can manifest in stronger degrees-When God shows up-Ps97:5-The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord; Ps68:8-The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God
 - B. Where God's presence manifests people are ministered to and helped-The presence of God is what makes a service good NOT a talented speaker or musician; If the preaching/singing was good it's because God was in it
 1. Victory in the presence of God-Ps9:3-When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at your presence; Is63:9-In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them
 2. Joy in His presence-Ps16:11-In thy presence is fullness of joy
 3. Strength and gladness-1Ch16:27-Glory and honor are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place
 4. Rest in the presence of God-Ex33:14-He said my presence shall go with you and I will give you rest
 5. Refreshing in the presence of the Lord-Acts3:19-Repent ye therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord
 6. There are sweet things in His presence-Ps16:11-...at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore
 7. There's freedom in the presence of God-2Cor3:17-Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty
 - C. We can do things in our services that hinder the presence of God, that quench His Spirit-1Th5:19-Quench (extinguish, suppress, stifle) not the Spirit; ISV-Do not stop the work of the Holy Spirit; GNT-Do not restrain
 1. How do you quench the Holy Spirit-By not yielding to Him and by yielding to things that are not Him; The spirits you yield to you give access to; We want to make sure the things happening in our service are inspired by Him – He's not sitting there saying you're not doing this right so I'm not going to manifest

2. We need to acknowledged the reality that we can hinder God's presence-We need not to think that what we do doesn't affect what He does in our services; **Lev22:3**-*That soul of him shall be cut off from my presence*; **Ps78:41**-*They turned back and tempted God and limited the Holy One of Israel*
 3. We should want to do everything necessary to cultivate and atmosphere conducive to His presence
- D. What can we do to create an atmosphere where God's presence can manifest?
1. Honor affects His presence-We must treat His services like they're important if we want Him to honor us with His presence; If we invest nothing into these services and are in a hurry that's not conducive to the presence of God-**1Sam2:30**-*Them that honor me I will honor*
 - a. There's needs to be some respect, decency and order-You need to be engaged, focusing on the Lord
 2. Hunger affects His presence-You will not be filled with that which you do not hunger for-**Mt5:6**-*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled*; **Jr29:13**-*You shall seek me and find me when you shall search for me with all of your heart* – We value it, we hunger for it
 3. Unity affects His presence-When are hearts are united and going in the same direction-**Ps133:1**- *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ² It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; ³ As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore*; **Js3:16**-*For where envying and strife is there is confusion and every evil work*
 4. Obedience affects His presence-We want to do what He says in these services-**Jn14:21**-*He that has my commandments and keeps them, he it is that loves me: and he that loves me shall be moved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him*
 5. Faith affects His presence-We're asking, believing, expecting Him to show up-**Mt13:58**-*He did no mighty works because of their unbelief*
 6. Humility-The presence of God is not place for pride-**1Co1:29**-*That no flesh should glory in his presence*

III. NOTES

- A. **1Cor14:1**-Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. ² For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. ³ But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. ⁴ He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. ⁵ I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. ⁶ Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? ⁷ And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? ⁸ For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? ⁹ So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. ¹⁰ There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. ¹¹ Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me. ¹² Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. ¹³ Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. ¹⁶ Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? ¹⁷ For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. ¹⁸ I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: ¹⁹ Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. ²⁰ Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. ²¹ In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. ²² Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. ²³ If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? ²⁴ But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: ²⁵ And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth. ²⁶ How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. ²⁷ If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. ²⁸ But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. ²⁹ Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. ³⁰ If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. ³¹ For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. ³² And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. ³³ For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. ³⁴ Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. ³⁵ And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. ³⁶ What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? ³⁷ If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. ³⁸ But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. ³⁹ Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. ⁴⁰ Let all things be done decently and in order.