

Appreciating the Church as a House of Worship

Vault verse for this series: Hebrews 10:24–25 (NLT) ²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. 1. God's word encourages faithful participation with other believers.

2. The early church came together daily.

Acts 2:42–47 (NLT) ⁴² All the believers <u>devoted</u> themselves to the apostles' <u>teaching</u>, and to <u>fellowship</u>, and to <u>sharing</u> in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to <u>prayer</u>. ⁴³ A <u>deep sense</u> <u>of awe</u> came over them all, and the apostles performed many <u>miraculous signs and wonders</u>. ⁴⁴ And <u>all the believers</u> met together in <u>one place</u> and <u>shared everything they had</u>. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They <u>worshiped</u> <u>together at the Temple each day</u>, <u>met in homes for the Lord's Supper</u>, and shared their meals with <u>great joy</u> and <u>generosity</u>–⁴⁷ all the while <u>praising God</u> and <u>enjoying the goodwill of all</u> <u>the people</u>. And <u>each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved</u>.

- 3. The foundational purpose of the church is to create a place of gathering where we worship God in unity.
- 4. Every Christian church should be a house of worship.

1. We must have the right attitude in worship

1. Recognition of God's Presence. **Hebrews 12:28–29 (NLT)**²⁸ Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. ²⁹ For our God is a devouring fire.

2. The joy of the Lord. **Psalm 100:2 (NLT)** *Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.*

3. The peace of God. **1 Corinthians 14:33 (NLT)** For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people.

4. A deep love for God. Matthew 22:36–37 (NLT) ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" ³⁷ Jesus replied, " 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'

5. Humility. **Micah 6:7–8 (NLT)** ⁷ Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? ⁸ No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

6. Gratitude. **Psalm 100:4 (NLT)** *Enter his gates (the parking lot) with thanksgiving; go into his courts (the doors) with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.*

7. Generosity. **2 Corinthians 9:11 (NLT)** *Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.* 8. Obedience. John 14:15 (NLT) *"If you love me, obey my commandments.*

9. Sincerity. **Matthew 15:8–9 (NLT)**⁸ 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹ Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'"

10. Consistency. Sunday should be the reflection and culmination of a week of worship!
2 errors to avoid: I worship God in nature and do not need to go to church
I'm a faithful attender of church and that is enough

The right attitude: I'm a child of God every day and my heart is filled with worship at all times. Therefore, I worship Him in nature and in the church building, I worship Him when I feel ecstatic and when I feel miserable, I worship in the palace, and I worship in prison. My worship is not dependent on me or my circumstance.

I AM AN EVERY DAY, ALL DAY WORSHIPPER OF ALMIGHTY GOD BECAUSE HE IS WORTHY!!!

2. We must have the right actions in worship

- 1. We worship God with our singing.
- 2. We worship God with our prayers.
- 3. We worship God with our giving.
- 4. We worship God as we consider His Word.
- 5. We worship God as we encourage one another.
- 6. We worship God as we praise Him.
- 7. We worship God in every righteous way that expresses our love for Him.

Psalm 150 (NLT) ¹ Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heaven! ² Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequaled greatness! ³ Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn; praise him with the lyre and harp! ⁴ Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with strings and flutes! ⁵ Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals. ⁶ Let everything that breathes sing praises to the LORD! Praise the LORD!