

Honor and Respect in Worship

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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Why do we go to Church every Sunday? Why do we attend praise and worship every Saturday? How much of our time do we really give to the Lord? Is one or two hours enough? God has taken the initiative; He gives us everything. He gives 100% to us, and from Him we learn to give. Moreover, going to mass is a celebration and an offering. God is not asking us to offer much, but He is requesting us to offer our ALL (Lk.10:27). We are here to worship and to celebrate with each other. Hence, true worship can only be experienced in its fullness when the heart learns to offer everything. Truly, we gather together to fulfill God's plan for our life.

Significance of Honor & Respect in Worship

1. Let us give a listening ear and a listening heart. The Lord never fails to give us His full time because every time He sees us, He is full of joy because He knows our story.(Acts17:27). He even knows the number of our hair strands (Mt. 10:26-31). Thus, genuine communication demands full attention to Him. If He is the most important in our life, then we find the meaning in everything we do.

2. God is asking us to offer all. "All that we are, all that we have, and all that we do, let us surrender to the Lord" (Lk. 10:27).

Let us admit, there are many imperfections in our life that we cannot handle. That is why we need God because we cannot solve our sins or overcome our shame. We should devote this precious time and everything in our heart to God. Hence, let us find opportunities to serve Him and to enhance our character so that our heart could be filled with joy.

3. When we worship, we do not do it alone. Our life will not be complete if we do not come here (place of worship). We gather together to offer to God our laughter and tears, our miseries and joys.

3.1 To worship is to look in one direction. We look to the Lord together.

Let us fix our attention to the Lord everyday. When Peter was walking on water, he lost his focus on the Lord, because he shifted his attention on the wind (Mt. 14: 22-33). Let us go back to our hearts. How come we cannot put our attention to the Lord? Why is our heart filled with anxiety? Why can't we stand still? We think of the multitude of work that we need to do. Let us offer to God the things we do not understand. Let us ask Him for the grace of desiring Him with all of our heart, soul, and mind.

3.2 We are here to pray. It is not about manipulating God's mind. Let us pray until our heart is at peace (Rom. 16:20). How come there are a lot of disturbance and noise when we are in worship? When we are restless during worship, is the devil working on us? On the other hand, God offers us love and peace because we are important to Him (Mt. 11:28-30). He offered not just His time, but His life (Jn.3:16).

Conclusion:

Let us allow God to love us. Only in allowing Him can we love God the way He loves us. How do we love Him with all our heart, mind and soul (Mk.12:29-31)? We need to ask for forgiveness, that He grants us the grace to long for Him (1Jn. 1:9). Only through our desire for Him can the realization of our heart and character become full.

In addition, Holy Week reminds us again that He is giving His all to us. Let us flex our hearts to receive the grace of God and to find opportunities to serve Him.

Reflection:

1. How much of your full attention do you give to the Lord?
2. Do you believe Jesus is present every time you gather together?

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