

Worship

The dangers of teaching from the outside in

Points to consider

1. We never make it “in”
2. It can produce lazy Bible students
3. It can give us a false sense of security

We ever make it “in”

“Outside in” teaching is when we teach the conclusions of our Bible study then teach how we came to those conclusions. A danger is that we never make it “in.”

Matt 12:6-8 *Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. 7 But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.*" NKJV

Under the Pharisees' _____ of God's instructions to rest on the Sabbath they thought “plucking grain” and eating it on the Sabbath was wrong. Jesus told them they were missing the point. He was Lord even of the Sabbath. Mark records that Jesus said, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.”

Matt 12:9-13 *Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. 10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" — that they might accuse Him. 11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."* NKJV

Under the Pharisees' interpretation of God's Sabbath instructions, Jesus could not heal a man with a withered hand. Jesus told them they were missing the point. It is lawful to do _____ on the Sabbath.

Matt 15:2 *"Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread. ... 17 Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."* NKJV

The Pharisees were experts at teaching what adherence to the traditions (and at times the Law) looked like _____ but were failures at understanding the _____ why those requirements were given in the first place.

We can fall into the same trap when we teach the “five acts of worship.” We risk passing on to the next generation what worship should look like, but we don't pass on _____ we worship. We risk our worship looking like worship but not honoring God at all.

It can produce lazy Bible students

2 Tim 2:14-16 *Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* NKJV

We are to be _____ as we rightly divide the word of truth.

Acts 17:1-4 *Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." 4 And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.* NKJV

In Thessalonica Paul used the Scriptures to _____ with them that the Christ had to suffer and that Jesus was the Christ. He did this for three weeks. Those who were not persuaded ran him out of town.

Acts 17:10-12 *Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.* NKJV

Those in Berea were _____ when diving deep into Scripture.

It's easy to remember a few lists and maybe even a verse for each item on the list. It takes more work and more effort to dig deep into Scripture to find out what the truth is on a subject. Studying the Bible is _____ work!

Just because we know and teach the approved lists, _____ mean we are good Bible students or spiritual people.

It can give us a false sense of security

Some might conclude that simply participating in the five acts of worship means we've worshiped.

I was listening to a sermon by Phil Roberts where he was also concerned about our teaching of the five acts of worship. I'm going to summarize his thoughts below, but the entire lesson can be heard at <https://www.antiochchurchofchrist.org/robertsworship.htm>

Narrow sense – Paying homage to God. Honoring him. Praising Him. Even though this is the "narrow" sense of the word, it is how the word is used most often. This is what worship is by _____.

Formal sense – Things you do at a prescribed time in a prescribed place. Often this involves other people.

Acts 8:26-29 *Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."* NKJV

- What you do when you come together with God's people.
- Not used often
- That's when the five acts of worship come into play.

Broad sense - Everything we do in our service to God can be called worship.

Col 3:16-23 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. 18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. 20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. NKJV*

In the broadest sense of the term, _____ we do should be done to honor and glorify God.

Mic 6:6-8 *With what shall I come before the Lord, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? 7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? NKJV*

Formal worship, even when authorized by God, is _____ if in our everyday lives we don't act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Amos 5:21-24 *"I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies. 22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. 23 Take away from Me the noise of your songs, For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. 24 But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream. NKJV*

_____ we engage in formal, collective worship, we need to focus on justice and righteousness.

Hos 6:6 *For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. NKJV*

Isa 1:10-17 -

Matt 5:23-25 *Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. NKJV*

Collective worship is only acceptable to God in a context of _____ living.

Practical Application: We need to have deeper studies more often where honestly investigate God's word to find out what He wants us to do and how He wants us to do it. We don't want to start our Bible study with someone else's conclusions. We want to start our Bible study in the Bible. Be cautious anytime someone teaches you a list that does not come directly from the Bible. Be extra careful anytime there is a number in front of that list. Don't be a CliffsNotes Christian!