

Hebrews 9.1

House of Worship

Just as our activities of worship are defined and prescribed by Scripture, so too are our places of worship, and the life that grows from and centers around them are also defined and bounded by the Word of God. We must avoid the pagan ideas that this place of worship (or any) is HOLY for its own sake, consecrated ground is a fallacy of the pagan mind. But when we walk in the truth of God, empowered by His Spirit and motivated by His will and purpose every place we set our foot is holy ground. This is a holy place because of the life of Him who lives in us! And that truth should shape and form every single thing we are and do as a church!

I. SANCTUARY SANCTIFIED

A. by the God of the worship

Matthew 23.16-22

B. By His Presence among us

Ezekiel 37.24-28

1. Tabernacle > miskani - dwelling place

2. Sanctuary > miqdasi – sacred or holy place

C. Sanctified by the worship offered

“Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants— Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant— Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, “Yet I will gather to him Others besides those who are gathered to him.”” (Isaiah 56:6–8, NKJV)

D. Sanctified by the people of God belonging to God

“I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.” (Leviticus 26:11–12, NKJV)

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” (1 Peter 2:9, NKJV)

II. PURPOSE DRIVES PLACE

A. Singular focus for worship

“Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: ‘Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge those who are carried away captive from Judah, whom I have sent out of this place for their own good, into the land of the Chaldeans. For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land; I will build them and not pull them down, and I will plant them and not pluck them up. Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.” (Jeremiah 24:4–7, NKJV)

B. Focus on God and His word

2Timothy 3.14 - 4.5

C. Our best v. our glory

1. Our Best Required

“Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9–10, NKJV)

2. Our Glory Despised

Mark 11.15-19

“Then, in the hearing of all the people, He said to His disciples, “Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.”” (Luke 20:45–47, NKJV)

III. Intent Informs

- A. What we intend to do shapes form
 - 1. Church v Family Center
- B. What we permit shaped by purpose
 - 1. Different perimeters defined by activity expected
- C. How we present ourselves bounded by purpose

“I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,

but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.” (1 Timothy 2:8–10, NKJV)

1. Dress
 2. Demeanor
 3. Reverence
- D. Desire drives frequency, pace and duration

IV. EXPECTATIONS UNITE

- A. When we are all on the same page we walk in unity

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Ephesians 4:1–6, NKJV)

- B. Place for discussion and harmony

Ephesians 4.11-16

- C. Room for harmonious disagreement

Romans 14.5-13

D. Allowance for individuality

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.” (Romans 12:9–13, NKJV)

V. SPIRIT SUPERSEDES SELF

A. We all pursue Christ for His purpose

“Let no one seek his own, but each one the other’s well-being.” (1 Corinthians 10:24, NKJV)

“For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:20–21, NKJV)

B. Ultimately His desire is to be our aim

C. Differing ideas and wants brought into submission to His will

“But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked

according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.” (2 Corinthians 10:2–6, NKJV)

D. Self-surrender required when preferences divide

*“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”
(Romans 14:19, NKJV)*

E. When the Spirit rules in individual hearts, His presence is known in corporate places and gatherings.

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the

*God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans
15:4–6, NKJV)*