

Part Three: Destroying the New Testament Pattern with Words—the Language of Ashdod

9. Destroying the New Testament Pattern with New Words: Corporate Worship

Innovators and change agents replace Bible worship and teaching with their innovations and introduce new non-Biblical words, which reflect this false doctrine. These new, non-Biblical words become a lexicon of change. This strategy of deceit is as old as the Devil's attempt to destroy Adam and Eve. The serpent entered just one word into God's command in Gen 3:4: "You will *not* surely die." These new terms hide the innovators' ideas with a semantic cloak of deceit. Their language is the language of Ashdod (Neh 13:24). In the next several sections, we will study the most common of these words.

- Corporate worship
- Praise and praise worship
- Emotion (s)
- Celebrate
- Contemporary service
- Community church

You will see that the terms and/or the phases are not New Testament in origin. The first of these terms is *corporate worship*.

Corporate worship.

What will they say? They will use the word *corporate worship* to distinguish between worship in the assembly of the church and all other places. One preacher explained it this way: "The way we worship here is different from the way we worship at camp." One report states that the '98 Jubilee's Children's Choir [a non-Biblical term itself] sang their songs to the accompaniment of musical instruments. The entire effort is that worship outside the assembly can be different, opening the floodgate to worship as and with denominations. Of course, it will not be long before these innovations in worship work their way into the assembly (corporate worship). In some congregations, hand clapping, arm waving, and shouting have already migrated from summer camp with the children to Sunday morning worship with the adults.

This argument extends to say that we are always the church whether we are in corporate worship or not. Therefore, the sophistry leads to the church doing anything that the individual can do, opening the gates to unscriptural activity in the assembly of the church.

What does the Bible say? There is no Biblical reference to justify the word. The worship of God is not tied to a place or time, according to the Lord himself. In John 4:23-24, He said: "23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." Wherever one worships God, it must be in spirit and truth.

One cannot pervert the teaching to make non-truthful practices acceptable. Our children are being indoctrinated at summer camps and youth rallies, in choirs and choruses, to worship as the denominations worship. Nor is the practice of going into denominational meetings and worshipping as they worship truthful. One congregation had a joint meeting with a Baptist group, singing half of the songs with the instrumental accompaniment and half without. Taking an act of worship out of the Lord's Day assembly does not qualify it to be perverted by innovations of man. The Lord said: "9but in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men." Matt 15:9. From the beginning of his teaching he laid down the sure path for us to follow: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter." Matt 7:21.

Semantic camouflage cannot hide what is happening:

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 2 Cor 6:14-15.