

Below are the Questions that were submitted and answered on April 5, 2020 and a brief summary of each answer that Josh gave in His lesson. Thanks to everyone who submitted questions.

You can view the video of this lesson at www.CharlotteHeights.org or on **Facebook**.

"I strongly state that I'm just a humble servant of the Word. I'm not the authority, but God is."

--Josh Barnett

Question 1: In the Bible, it talks about where two [or] more are gathered in His name. If I'm home alone (watching via FB live) worshipping, am I in accordance with God's will? Is my worshipping Him alone truly okay with Him?

Answer

Yes.

Consider these things.

1. Christ is not in our lives only when two or more are gathered in His name. (Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 4:13, Hebrews 13:5)
2. You can worship alone via Facebook just like many widows and widowers worship every Lord's Day. Many Christians worship this way while traveling, serving overseas in the military, or serving as a missionary in remote areas. We have many people who live alone, who faithfully worship with us via Facebook Live.
3. The verse that mentions "*where two or more are gathered in his name*" is often taken out of context.
 - "*For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.*" (Matthew 18:20)
 - Remember three things with any verse in the Bible: Context, Context, Context!
 - The context of this verse is not worship but church discipline.
 - Jesus warned of offenses with little ones. (18:6-9)
 - He taught the parable of the lost sheep. (18:10-14)
 - He gave the manner of church discipline. (18:15-20)
 - Matthew 18:20 is connected to what Jesus said in verses 15-19 about a brother (or sister) who sins against you.
 - Go and tell the person his fault between you and him alone. (18:15)
 - If that doesn't work, take with you two or three as witnesses to verify the issue. (This goes back to the Old Testament.)
 - If that doesn't work, tell it to the church in hopes the pressure of the whole group will lead the person to repentance.
 - If that doesn't work, the church is to withdraw from the rebellious person.
 - When the church gathers together to formalize a case of discipline, Christ Himself will be there.
 - In other words, He sanctions the actions by His presence.
 - Contextually, the verse is "*For where two or three are gathered together in My name [specifically in the matter of discipline] I am there in the midst of them*" (Matthew 18:20)

Question 2: Why do we reserve communion for adults/those that have been baptized? Is this a scriptural command or a tradition of the church of Christ?

Answer

- The Lord's Supper is not reserved for every adult. It's reserved for those who are Christians.
 - Christians partake of the Lord's Supper because of the command and meaning of it.
 - Who should take it? Why do we take it? When do we take it?
- The answers are not tradition but are based on scriptural command and example.
1. Jesus instituted the Lord Supper with His disciples.
 - "*And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take eat this is my body.'*" (Matthew 26:26)
 - Jesus didn't institute this with just anybody. He shared it with His followers - those who believed, confessed, and changed for Him.
 2. Paul wrote to the church of Corinth about various matters, one of them being the Lord Supper. (1 Corinthians 11:17-18, 33)
 - How does one become a part of the "church"? (John 3:3-5) (Acts 2:21, 37-38, 46-47)
 3. The tangible symbols of the bread and fruit of the vine and their meaning are for those who know their significance.
 - "*Take eat this is my body.*" (Matthew 26:26)
 - "*Drink from it, all of you [disciples]. For this is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*" (Matthew 26:27-28)

- *“I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”* (Matthew 26:29)
- The Lord Supper is for those who are in the kingdom and have received the remission of sins. (Matthew 26:28, Mark 14:24, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25)
 - The *“new covenant”* is what we are in now because of what Christ did for us on the cross and at His Resurrection.
- Would anyone who is not a Christian appreciate or understand the meaning of what the Lord Supper is?
 - How can we eat of the unleavened bread when we don’t believe or confess that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God?
 - How can we drink of the fruit of vine when we don’t seek Jesus for the *“remission of our sins”*?
- 4. We are to do this *“in remembrance of Me”*.
 - This is not a suggestion.
 - It’s a command given by our Lord when He instituted it.
 - It’s not something we can take lightly.
 - *“Therefore, whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.”* (1 Corinthians 11:27)

Question 3: Is it okay to leave [my] contribution at [the] church office on a day other than Sunday, or do I have to put [it] in the plate during worship? Is it okay to use online giving options, especially if it comes out of my bank on a day besides Sunday?

Answer

- How are you going to put your contribution in a plate when you are not here to put it into a plate?
 - You are not here because of the strong recommendations of the Elders, Mayor, Governor, and even the President.
 - We are not meeting physically because of safety measures for ourselves and our neighbors.
 - It’s not because of our faith or lack of it.
 - It’s in order to facilitate those who are sick in the hospital and contain COVID-19.
 - No, you don’t have to put your money in a plate, nor should you come down here and put your money in a plate.
 - A plate passing doesn’t have to happen in order for us to give to the Lord as we have prospered.
- We are working with the Governor by staying home and staying safe, but we still provide worship services.
 - We have balanced this like other churches through online services.
 - We have offered for people to come by and pick up travel communion to participate at home as they worship with us.
 - We offer the same with giving online, by mail, or by coming to the building and dropping off your contribution.
- The pattern is in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.
 - Paul is not giving a suggestion but an order.
 - This order should be motivated by love. (2 Corinthians 8:8)
 - It is based on our love for God and for people.
 - The frequency of giving is given by Paul as *“the first day of the week”*.
 - We are unable to do this if we are sick or traveling on vacation.
 - In those cases, we make provisions for not being here.
 - I believe our current condition falls into similar circumstances. We are required not to be here with more than 10 for the time being.
- The second part of the question is *“Is it okay to use online giving options, especially if it comes out of my bank on a day besides Sunday?”*
 - Yes!
 - My family writes a check each Sunday when we are here, and each time I get a bank statement or look at my account online I see that my contribution comes out on Monday or another day, not Sunday.
 - That is beyond my control and the church’s control because of bank hours.
 - Our personal responsibility is to lay something aside when we have prospered and to give out of love for God and others.
 - The other logistics of when, where, and how is not on us.
 - So, yes, it’s okay to contribute online especially considering our current situation.