

Separating Thanksgiving from Revelry

Text

Gal. 5:19-21 ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practise such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Memory Verse

2 Pet. 1:5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge.

Introduction

What is revelry?

In the New Testament, the Greek word means a noisy, drunken night procession. Think of half-drunk people parading through the streets with torches and music to honour a pagan god,

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stopping at houses of friends. It is basically the ancient version of a wild carnival.

When people were converted to Christ in the early Church, they were told to leave that lifestyle behind (1 Pet. 4:1-5). True worship does not look like that.

Objective

To know that praising and thanking God should teach our neighbours godliness. It should bring both them and us to a place of sober reflection on the life Christ taught us (Eph. 4:17-21).

Presentation

1. Self-Control is Needed During Praise

Without self-control as a fruit of the Spirit, corporate worship can slide into revelry.

True worship is what you think in your heart, say with your mouth, and do with your hands, all with Christ's teaching in mind. It is aimed at the good of your neighbour and the glory of God.

It does not matter the day, season, place, or time. If it is done in line with Christ, it is worship, and God rewards it.

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Worshiping the true God means working with Him and for Him. That work deserves a reward.

Raising songs of thanksgiving is “worship in praise.” But it is not limited to singing. It includes doing and saying what God would do and say if He were in your place. When you live like that, you are acting on His behalf, and He notices. He rewards it (Heb. 11:4; Prov. 19:17).

2. The New Testament Pattern of Praise

“Worship in acapella” is singing without instruments. That is the New Testament pattern. Praise now is spiritual - songs from the heart and the fruit of our lips as a sacrifice (Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15).

About a tenth of the Bible is songs, with Psalms leading the way. But it is evil to let people fall into “religious rascality” in the name of praising God.

3. A Warning for Our Youths and Our Practice

Youths are the most vulnerable here. When instruments and noise become the focus, sober reflection gets lost.

I heard a church leader say, “Do not stop playing so my anointing does not stop flowing.” Where

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did that come from? He was yoking our youths with something that is not in Christ.

It is holiness and service that meet needs that attract God's Spirit, not instruments. Elisha asked for a harpist in 2 Ki. 3:14-15 because of the culture then. Harpists do not bring down the Holy Spirit in this era. What releases the Spirit now is obeying the teaching of Christ as delivered by the apostles (Acts 2:36-38).

Here is the problem. Many youths now learn instruments as a business. Some churches treat musicians as more important for "church growth" than people who study and teach Scripture. They get paid per service, sometimes playing multiple services a week.

There is money in it, sure. But there is a bigger reward in sharing virtues and truth. Watch and see which one actually builds people.

Conclusion

Thanksgiving to God must stay distinct from revelry. True praise is sober, God-centred, and focused on building people up. Do not trade that for noise and performance.

Evaluation Questions & Answers

1. In your own words, what is revelry?
 - * Revelry is noisy, drunken, uncontrolled behaviour - like a wild street party done to honour something other than God. It is the opposite of sober, Spirit-led worship.
2. Have you seen anything like revelry or carousing in your fellowship?
 - * That depends on your situation. The key check is: does the gathering produce self-control, sobriety, and a focus on Christ? If it is just noise, performance, and distraction, it is drifting toward revelry.
3. Does the New Testament recommended anything other than a spirit of sobriety?
 - * No. The New Testament repeatedly calls us to sobriety, self-control, and sober-mindedness (1 Pet. 1:13; 4:7; 5:8; Titus 2:12). Praise should reflect that.

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4. Youths who spend their time studying God's Word and teaching are not encouraged in the same way that those playing instruments are.

True or False? Why?

- * True, in many places. It is a problem. Churches often give more attention and pay to musicians than to those who teach Scripture. But God's order is different. It is the Word taught and obeyed that releases the Spirit (Acts 2:38).

5. According to our lesson, which practice somewhat recruits our youths into "religious rascality"?

- * Making instruments and performance the centre of worship, and treating musicians as indispensable for church growth. It turns worship into a business and distracts from sober reflection and the Word.

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your Word. Keep us from mixing true worship with revelry. Raise up leaders who value Your truth above performance. Help our youths to love Your Word and live soberly for You. May our praise always bring glory to You and good to our neighbours. Amen.