

Ephesians Series

Lesson #237

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Worship is Defined by Christ

Ephesians 5:18–21



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Results of being filled by the Spirit:

Eph. 5:19, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph. 5:20, “giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus

Christ,

Eph. 5:21, “submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Eph. 5:22, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

Results of the Word dwelling richly:

Col 3:16b, “... teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Col. 3:17, “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.

Col. 3:18, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”

Expanded translation of Col. 3:16

“You [insert your name] *must* let the Word of Christ make itself at home abundantly and generously in every aspect of your thinking and life with the result that you teach and admonish each other through singing songs, hymns, and spiritual songs in all wisdom, singing with grace in your hearts toward God.” [RD]

What are Our Assumptions?

Summary:

- **The Scripture is our sole authority on worship.**
- **God and God alone defines worship.**
- **But how do we evaluate music? Is that not a matter of personal taste? Or culture? (Subtext: good and bad music, art, literature, poetry, etc. are relative to culture and personal taste.) Is this true?**

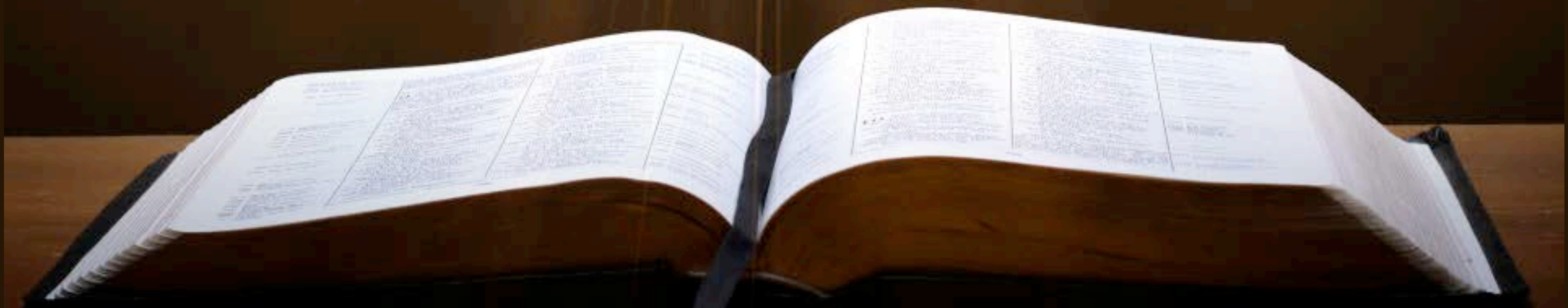
**What the Bible Teaches
About**

**The Immensity
of God**



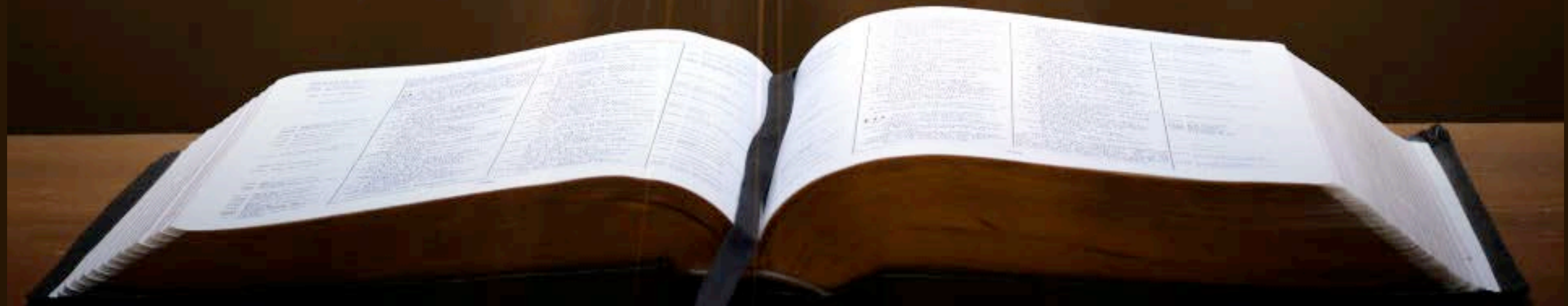
What the Bible Teaches About

The Holiness of God



**What the Bible Teaches
About**

The Meaning of Worship



**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Corporate Worship



**What the Bible Teaches
About**

The Origins of Music



**What the Bible Teaches
About
The Elements and Forms
of Worship**



ESSENCE OF GOD

Holy

Sovereign

Omniscient

Righteousness

Omnipresent

Justice

Omnipotent

Love

Veracity

Eternal Life

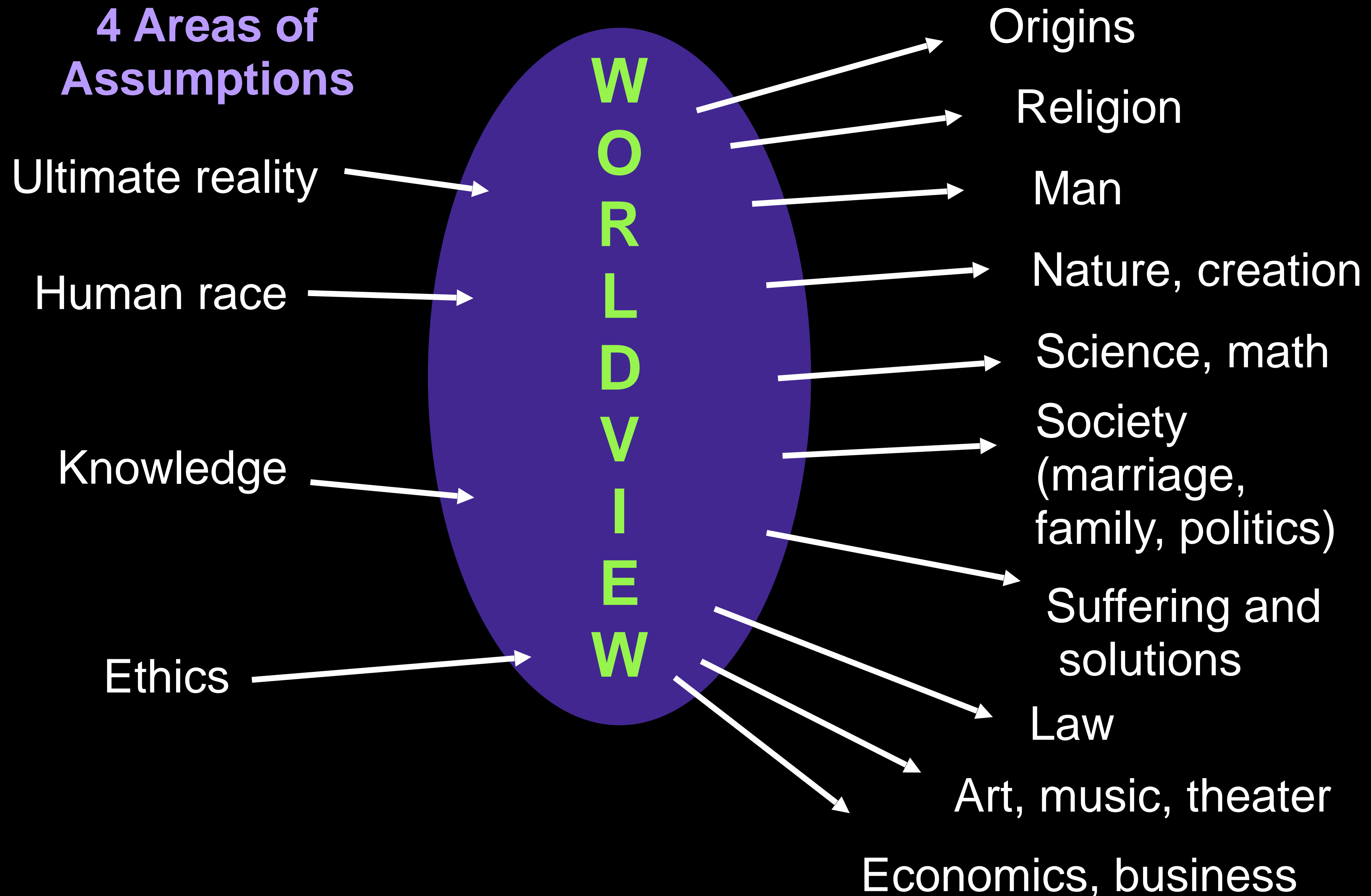
Immutability

**What The Bible Teaches
About**

Worldview and Beauty



The Worldview Mixmaster



Application

Statements on right, wrong, good, bad all begin with God

This is where we talk and argue.

Logical Sequence

These are the real issues, usually ignored.

Aesthetics (Beauty): What is beauty? What is good music, art, literature? Can we use terms like good and bad? Attractive, unattractive? On what basis?

Ethics: What is right? What is wrong? What is good or bad?

Epistemology: How do we know truth? Right from wrong? Just or unjust?

Metaphysics: Ultimate reality, i.e., God, matter, energy, nothing

Pressures of life

Components of Worldview

Foundation of *all* thought

Common assumptions which govern contemporary understanding of worship:

Assumptions that the worship of the church should be attractive to those who are unbelievers, or who are baby believers with value systems totally shaped by their culture or subculture.

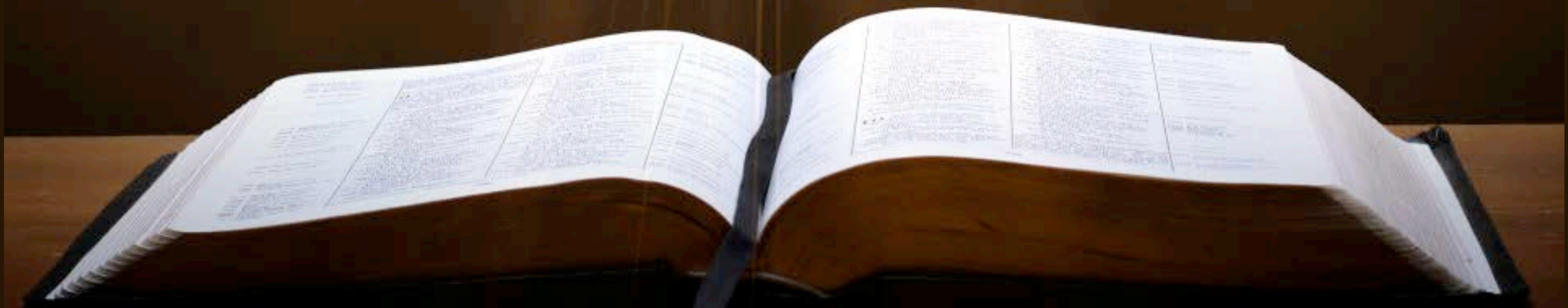
Another assumption is that the purpose of the church is to enable its growth.

Questions:

- 1. What is the purpose of the meeting of the Church?**
- 2. What is the purpose of congregational music?**
- 3. Should we conform to cultural norms? What about so-called “traditional” hymns? Weren’t those who wrote “traditional” hymns conforming to cultural norms?**

What the Bible Teaches About

The Nature of “the Church”



Is the Church a social organism?

Is the Church an evangelistic organization?

Is the Church an organization which follows the norms of any organization and which should be studied via sociological and psychologically derived standards?

1. The Church was not in existence in the Old Testament or in the time of the incarnation. Jesus first mentions the church in Matt. 16:18.

Matt. 16:15, “He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’

Matt. 16:16, “Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’

Matt. 16:17, “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Matt. 16:18, “ ‘And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Matt. 16:19, “ ‘And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ ”

2. Here Jesus clearly states that *He* will build His church.

3. In John 21 Jesus delegates the responsibility of feeding the sheep to the apostles.

John 21:15, “So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Feed My lambs.’

John 21:16, “He said to him again a second time, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Tend My sheep.’

John 21:17, “He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?’ Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ And he said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed My sheep.’ ”

4. Paul further describes this as “equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry,” Eph. 4:11–12.

5. The Church was created only after Christ had broken down the middle wall of separation, and created “in Himself one new man from the two,” Eph. 2:15.

Eph. 2:15, “having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,”

6. This new man is further described as a new body (Eph. 2:16, “one new body”),

members of the household of God,

a new entity (Eph. 2:19),

which is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Eph 2:20),

with Christ the chief cornerstone of the foundation (Eph. 3:20),

which is growing into a new building which is a “holy temple to the Lord” (Eph. 2:21), a “dwelling place of God the Holy Spirit” (Eph. 2:22).

7. It is through the Holy Spirit that we worship the Lord as part of the body of Christ, this new temple.

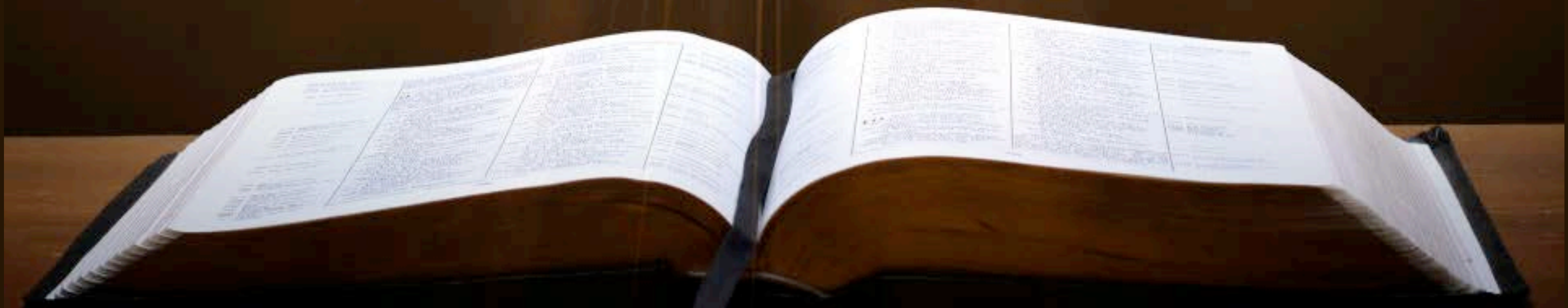
***ναός naos* masc sing dat (m) refers to the inner sanctum, the Holy of Holies, whereas a different word, *heiros*, refers to the Temple precincts, the outer courtyards.**

8. Conclusion, the universal church is this new Temple, and each individual congregation is a finite representative of that “new man,” “new body,” “new building,” and “new Temple.”

Therefore the guidelines for the conduct of that new entity are not derived from sociology, psychology, group dynamics, popularity, or external culture, but exclusively from the Word of God.

What the Bible Teaches About

The Purpose of the Meeting of the Church



Eph. 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Eph. 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Eph. 4:13, “till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”

Eph. 4:14, “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Eph. 4:15, “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Eph. 4:16, “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Observations

- 1. The four gifts listed in context refer to the gifted leaders which, of course, possess these gifts (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28–30).**

Observations

2. Christ gives these gifted men to the church, because He is the Head of the Church:

Eph. 1:22, “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,”

Eph. 4:15, “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—”

Observations

- 3. The purpose of these four leadership positions, specifically for today evangelists and pastor-teachers, is to equip the saints for the work of ministry.**

Observations

4. The meeting of the Church is for the equipping of believers, not for the purpose of making unbelievers comfortable, or as the means of evangelism. However, evangelism takes place.

2 Tim. 4:5, “But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry”

Observations

5. The meeting of the church through the ordinances teaches and proclaims salvation:

1 Cor. 11:26, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”

Observations

6. The meeting of the church is for corporate prayer.

1 Tim. 2:1, “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

1 Tim. 2:2, “for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

1 Tim. 2:3, “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,”

Observations

7. The meeting of the church is for the proclamation of the Word, which includes: convincing people of the truth of the Word, rebuking, telling them what is wrong, exhorting, which is challenging them, and teaching.

2 Tim. 4:2, “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

2 Tim. 4:3, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;”

2 Tim. 4:4, “and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

2 Tim. 4:5, “But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2 Tim. 4:6, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

2Tim. 4:7, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Conclusions:

- 1. The Church has a supernatural, divine origin, and is defined in all of its aspects by the Word of God.**
- 2. Though it has social, psychological, and musical aspects, it is not to be defined, managed, directed, by these autonomous human viewpoint systems.**
- 3. The Church is not designed to make unbelievers comfortable, but to teach them how to think, live, talk, and conduct their lives in a way that is different from the world/culture around them.**