The Church’s Responsibility in Worship
1 Cor 14:23-26

Introduction:
A. We commonly classify “The Work of The Church” as Evangelism, Edification and Benevolence.
   1. Worship is usually listed as a separate category, but should it not also be included in the work?
   2. Self edification, rather than a separate work, is a part of preaching, worship and benevolence.
      a. Part of the work of evangelists, pastors, and teachers is to edify the church (Eph. 4:11,12,16)
      b. One purpose of public worship is to edify (1 Cor. 14:5, 12, 17, 26)
B. We plan to answer to basic questions about the church’s responsibility in the area of worship.
   1. What is worship?
   2. What is “church worship?”
   3. What is the church’s work in worship?

Discussion:
I. What Is “Worship?”
A. It is found 115 times in O.T. And 73 times in the N.T. in its various forms.
   1. It is used of rendering specific acts (words or deeds) of devotion directed to deity.
   2. It is an act forbidden toward anyone or anything other than the Godhead. (Rom. 1:25; Acts 10:25-26; Col. 2:18; Rev. 19:10)
   3. It is a separate act from ordinary activities of life (Gen. 22:5; 24:48; 1 Sam. 1:19; John 4:20-24)
B. It is not a synonym for “serve” or “obey”
   1. All worship is service and obedience, but not all obedience/service is worship.
   2. “Worship” and “serve” used as separate acts in many passages (Deut. 4:19; 8:19; 11:16; 30:17; 1 Kings 9:6; 2 Chron. 7:19; Jer. 13:10; 25:6; Dan 3:12, 14, 18, 28; Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8)
   3. We must obey parents, husbands, governments, masters – but must not worship them.
C. It is not true that “all life” is worship.
   1. This error based on a perversion of Romans 12:1 (See NIV)
   2. The act of presenting the body to God as act of (service/worship) is a far cry from saying every act of the body is an act of worship.
   3. The object of this error is to equate all acts of a faithful Christian with worship – thus minimize the priority of public worship.

II. What Is “Church Worship?”
A. It is those acts that fit the Biblical concept of worship that is done when the church is assembled.
B. There are five acts that fits the idea of worship that were done in the assemblies of the N.T. churches.
   1. Singing unto God (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:15)
   2. Praying unto God (1 Cor. 14:15; Acts 12:5)
   3. Preaching/hearing of God’s word are acts of glorifying God (Acts 20:7)
   4. Lord’s supper is an act worship to the Lord (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:21)
   5. Giving is done unto the Lord (1 Cor. 16:2)

III. What Is the Church’s Work in Worship?
A. Local churches “come together” or assemble for worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:17-20; 14:23)
B. Part of its work is provide the facilities for these assemblies and the worship activities.
   1. Place and utensils necessary for orderly assembly and proper frame of mind for worship.
   2. Even spiritual worship requires some physical aids – church should provide these.

Conclusion:
A. The local church is to provide for scriptural public worship for its members.
B. The local church may from its treasury provide the things needed for public worship.