

INTRODUCTION: EVENING WORSHIP IN ELDER HOUSEHOLDS

- A. LABOR DIVISION: ELDER OVERSEES HOST, LEADER, PRESENTER, MEMBERS, GUESTS**
- B. PURPOSE: FULLER FELLOWSHIP, EASIER EVANGELISM, DELIBERATE DISCIPLESHIP**
- C. ARRANGEMENTS: ELDER INVITATION AND MEMBER CHOICE**
- D. BEGINNING: 19 SEPTEMBER 2010 (tentative)**
- E. SCHEDULE: HOUSEHOLDS (1st & 3rd), DINNER (2nd), LORD'S SUPPER (4th), PSALM SING (5th)**
- F. A WILLING PEOPLE: DISCUSSION, INPUT, ADJUSTMENTS (see Ps.110:3; 1Pt.5:1f)**

I. CONSTITUTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Directory of Public Worship (2010), pg. 7: "29. The session should carefully consider how to lead the church in observing the day. Since the circumstances of each congregation vary, the session should carefully consider whether a second meeting should be held, and whether it should be a public worship service or some other gathering for fellowship and edification, always considering the glory of God and the good of the congregation."

II. HISTORICAL HOUSEHOLDS

- A. UNITED SOCIETIES OF THE COVENANTERS** (c. 1650; fellowship—"conference for mutual edification and prayer"; also public testimony, i.e., vs. unlawful acts of civil government; the *necessities* of persecution)
- B. THE UNITED SOCIETIES OF THE METHODISTS** (c.1750; divided into yet smaller "classes" of ~ 12 w/leader; prayer, exhortation, *searching* accountability (questions!), support); the *necessities* of personal, corporate and societal revival and reformation; i.e., "sinners synonymous"; Eph.4:16; Jms.5:16)
- C. SYRACUSE RP CHURCH** (c.1976; Pastor Robson's household; word, prayer, *Christian* fellowship)
- D. OSWEGO RP CHURCH** (c.1980; Pastor Swartz's household; word, prayer, *Christian* fellowship)
- E. CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: SANCTIFICATION VS. ENTERTAINMENT** (eg, Eph4:16; see A,B above)

III. BIBLICAL BASIS

- A. HOUSEHOLD: INNER BOND OF OUTER COMMUNION** (1Sam.22:1; Gal.6:10; see Eph.2:20; 4:16)
- B. HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY** (Gen.7:1f,7(Heb.11:7); 17:23; Num.1:2,etc.; Josh.7:14; Prov.31:10f,15,20,21,27f; Mk.3:24,25; Lk.2:4; 1Tm.5:8,14,16)
- C. CHURCH: HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH** (Gal.6:10,16)
- D. TEMPLE & HOUSE: PUBLIC & PRIVATE** (Acts 2:46(42); 5:42; 20:20)
- E. CHURCH IN THE HOUSE** (Rom.16:5; 1Cor.1:16; 16:19; Col.4:15; Phlm.2; Acts 8:3; 11:14; 16:15,31f; 18:8; 2Tm.1:16; 4:19; see 1Tm.3:4,5,12; Tt.1:11)

IV. PRACTICAL POINTS

- A. THE LORD'S DAY: MORNING & EVENING** (Gen.1:5f; Ex.20:8; Rev.1:10; see Ps.3:5 & 4:8)
- B. MORNING & EVENING SAMENESS** (Ex.29:38f,41; see Lev.6:20; 1Chr.16:40; 23:30; 2Chr.2:4; 13:11; 31:3; Ezra 3:3; see Eccl.11:6!)
- C. MORNING & EVENING DIFFERENCE** (Ex.16:8(1Kngs.17:6); see Ps.90:6! /Spurgeon's *Morning & Evening*)
- D. EVENING: THE FULLNESS OF THE DAY** (Ps.141:2; 1Kngs.18:36; Dan.9:21(Lk.1:9f?; Rev.1:10?); Gen.3:8; Acts 20:7f; yet Ps.90:6!)
- E. THREEFOLD PURPOSE OF THE DAY: WORSHIP & MERCY & NECESSITY** (Lk.6:6&10&1 w/Ps.55:17?!; see *WCF*,22,8; *LC*,117; *SC*,60)
- F. SESSION: LEAD THE CHURCH IN OBSERVING THE DAY** (Acts 20:20,28; see *DPW* above)
- G. MAINTAINING STRENGTHS & STRENGTHENING WEAKNESS** (Acts 2:42,46)

V. OBJECTIONS OVERCOME

- A. STRICT VIEW OF MORNING & EVENING PUBLIC WORSHIP SERVICES: PROVES TOO MUCH** (see Ex.29:38f,41; see Lev.6:20; 1Chr.16:40; 23:30; 2Chr.2:4; 13:11; 31:3; Ezra 3:3; see Eccl.11:6!)
- B. DIVIDING THE CONGREGATION: THE ONE AND THE MANY** (see Num.1:4; Eph.4:16)
- C. LOSS OF GOOD THINGS NOW ENJOYED: NEW AND OLD** (Mt.9:16f; 13:52)

VI. REMEMBER THE LORD'S DAY TO KEEP IT WHOLLY

- A. MORNING AND EVENING** (Gen.1:5,etc; Ex.20:8f; and noon!; Ps.55:17)
- B. WORSHIP AND MERCY AND NECESSITY** (Lk.6:6&10&1 w/Ps.55:17?!; see *WCF*,22,8; *LC*,117; *SC*,60)
- C. WORD AND SACRAMENT WITH PRAYER IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**(Acts2:42,46; 5:42 /Eph4:16)