

DISCUSSION # 1

1.1

I. Basic Definitions and Concepts.

A. Preliminary notes...

1. About these remarks...for whom they are intended and why they are given.
2. About these notes...the form in which they are prepared and the extensiveness of their character...and some warnings about the preparer...he does not always return to correct his mistakes
3. And about the subject...one which must be coupled with this threefold warning...

---Worship may not be legislated (by us)

---Worship cannot be mechanized

---And worship should not be analyzed psychologically.

About these things we will elaborate on our tape. But the emphasis is that we are not trying to reduce the concept of worship to a formula or bring it to the precision of a mathematical equation. It is a subject that may be studied and that is what we hope to do. But please do not think that any sort of course or lecture will make one into a smooth and polished worshipper. That is a matter of the heart and it cannot be structured after our modern methods of sophistication and assembly-line production.

Now once in awhile we meet someone who thinks that nothing about worship needs to be taught and that all instruction along this line is "out of place." They may tell you that worshipping and praying are as natural as talking. This is probably right but I always observe that many a child has to be instructed in the manner in which he speaks to his parents and elders in general. If one does not know what I mean.....

B. The General Character of Worship

1.2

1. Worship, as used in a spiritual sense, is the heart's adoration of God. There are many ways to say it. It is the expression of love that magnifies the party to whom it is addressed. It is the act that exalts another out of admiration and appreciation. It is founded in respect and love and shows itself in praise and thanks. Essentially it is your soul loving God and seeking to bless Him and expand His glory. All definitions of worship are a bit vague. The large nature of the subject defies being placed in a few words.