

THE LORD'S DAY

Article 8

If a neighbor asked you, “Why do you work on Saturday and worship on Sunday? You’re breaking one of the Ten Commandments,” how would you respond? (p. 106).

VIII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

*Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12;
28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke
24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-
28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; I
Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16;
3:16; Revelation 1:10.*

“Christians gather together and
celebrate worship on the Lord’s Day”
(p. 102).

“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight” (Acts 20:7).

The New Testament church gathered on the Lord's Day for worship. This is why *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000* states that the Lord's Day is “a Christian institution for regular observance.”

This phrase means that we Baptists agree with the NT church that the Lord's Day should be "an institution." This expression means that it is an established foundational practice for Christians.

When we say that the Lord's Day is to be for "regular observance," we mean that Sunday must be the normal celebration and worship day for Christians.

WHY SUNDAY?

“Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you’”
(John 20:19).

WHY SUNDAY?

Sunday commemorates the new order of life based upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. He appeared to His disciples on that day, so we appear before Him together on that same day of the week.

WHY SUNDAY?

The 4th Commandment orders that a particular time be set aside each week for worship of Almighty God. However, the Saturday practice is connected with the creation cycle, while the Sunday practice is connected with the new creation and the resurrection.

We obediently observe corporate worship on a specified day every week as God commanded, but on the first day of the week in honor of the resurrection of Jesus.

WHY SHOULD I PHYSICALLY
ATTEND THE LOCAL GATHERING
OF MY CONGREGATION, RATHER
THAN WORSHIPING AT HOME
THROUGH THE INTERNET OR
TELEVISION?

There are at least three reasons:

1. We each need the accountability of our own local church body of believers.
2. We need to encourage others to love Jesus more.
3. We need an explanation of the Bible, and an exhortation to live it, that comes from outside of ourselves.

Hebrews 10:25 gives us urgent instructions about the Lord's Day: "Let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near" (HCSB).

The passage teaches us:

1. Faithful attendance at Sunday worship service shows concern for others.
2. Faithful participation in the life of the church, including meeting together for worship, spurs others on to love and good works.
3. Showing up to Sunday worship encourages other people.

Additionally, due to our intractable ability to deceive ourselves when reading the Bible in private, we need to be confronted with and fed from the Word of God through public preaching. (cf. Martin Luther)

WHY OBSERVE THE LORD'S DAY
WITH ONE PARTICULAR
CONGREGATION, RATHER THAN
“VISIT AROUND”?

1. You are in a covenant with the congregation of your membership. They know you and have permission to exhort you.
2. The pastor of your congregation has been given a message from the Lord that is for the particular congregation to which he is assigned.

3. Faithfully worshiping with your congregation provides a clear testimony to the world of your commitment to Jesus and His people.
4. Being faithful to one congregation forces you to love—to bear with one another, as Jesus commanded.

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO
DO IN OUR PUBLIC WORSHIP
SERVICES?

The Outline for Public Worship Is (Acts 2:40-47):

1. Gathering of followers of Jesus (vv. 41-42).
2. Preaching the Word of God (v. 42).
3. Relationships built on the Great Commission task—fellowship (v. 42).

4. Lord's Supper (v. 42)
5. Baptism (v. 41)
6. Prayer (v. 42)
7. Loving each other (vv. 44-45)
8. Generous giving (vv. 44-45).
9. Praising God (v. 47).
10. Evangelism (vv. 40, 47).

The Bible guides each of these actions. We are to:

1. Preach the Bible
2. Pray the Bible
3. Sing the Bible
4. Demonstrate the Bible (love/fellowship)
5. Illustrate the Bible (ordinances)
6. Evangelize with the Bible

If your neighbor asks you “Why do you ‘go to church’ every Sunday?” according to what we have studied, what would your answer be?

If your friends ask you, “What do you do at church [worship service]?” according to what we have studied, how would you answer your friends?

If someone said to you, “I don’t go to church. I don’t need to go to church to be a Christian!” according to what we have studied, how might you respond to him or her?

WHAT ARE YOU FORBIDDEN TO
DO ON THE LORD'S DAY?

We are forbidden to neglect attendance of weekly corporate worship with our local church (Hebrews 10:25).

We are forbidden to forget that the Lord's Day is a gift from Jesus to His church (Mark 2:27). Receive it gladly from Jesus!

If an action does not interfere with these two prohibitions, then let your Lord's Day decisions be guided by your conscience as it is informed by the Bible, yielded to the lordship of Christ, and accountable to your local church.

“I was glad when they said to me,
‘Let us go into the house of the
LORD’” (Psalm 122:1).

“And as His [Jesus’] custom was, He
went into the synagogue on the
Sabbath day, and stood up to read”
(Luke 4:16).

HOW'S YOUR CHURCH LIFE?

“Going to church” will not turn you into a Christian, but when you become a Christian, it will turn you into a “church-goer.”

ARE YOU WILLING TO TRUST GOD
TO DO HIS WORK IN US AND
THROUGH US, AS WE LET HIS
WORD REGULATE OUR WORSHIP
SERVICES?

1. Preach the Bible
2. Pray the Bible
3. Sing the Bible
4. Demonstrate the Bible
(love/fellowship)
5. Illustrate the Bible (ordinances)
6. Evangelize with the Bible

Will you be unwavering in your
commitment to these elements in our
public worship services?

Will you help
your church family
to take these biblical
actions in worship?