

# Worship Wars in Adventism

## I. A Dividing Controversy in the Church-Rev. 13:15

- A. “Celebrtion”/“Seekr Sensitive”/“Cultrally Relevant”
- B. Willow Creek – A more subtle deception
  - 1. A description of Willow Creek worship
  - 2. Peter Jennings special report – “In the Name of God” – Survey and Offering appeals
  - 3. Problem: Low commitment – High commitment
- C. The two sides on the battlefield
  - 1. Devil sometimes offers two false alternatives.
  - 2. What’s it accomplish? In choosing what they deem the lesser of two evils, they fail to accept the “Truth”!

## II. Biblical Basis for Worship

- A. Biblical worship – starts with my personal life
  - 1. God only is to receive my worship -  
Matt. 4:10/Deut. 6:4-5
    - a. IMPORTANT KEY: Worship can’t be vibrant unless the worshippers are vibrant!
    - b. Involves daily priorities – 1 Cor. 10:31
    - c. The way I live my life is worship-Rom. 12:1
- B. Goal: Participation/Interaction
  - 1. Not a performance (Man centered)
    - a. It’s God focused - Ps. 34:3
  - 2. Not a Spectator sport
    - a. Participatory/Interactive - Heb. 10:24-25
- C. Importance of small groups
  - 1. Sunday churches didn’t originate this
    - a. Exodus 18:21 - Jethro’s counsel
    - b. Ezek. 37:11-14 & 1 Cor. 12:14-18
    - c. Acts 2:46 – House to House
  - 2. Ellen White on small groups:  
“Let small companies assemble in the evening, at noon, or in the early morning to study the Bible. Let them have a season of prayer, that they may be strengthened, enlightened, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. This work Christ wants to have done in the heart of every worker. If you yourselves will open the door to receive it, a great blessing will come to you. Angels of God will be in your assembly. . . . Christ will come into your hearts. It is by this means only that you can maintain your integrity.” *Testimonies For the Church, Vol. 9, 195*

“The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, . . .”  
*Testimonies For the Church, Vol. 7, 21-22*

### III. Conclusions

A. The good old way is not always the good old way!

1. Does reverence always mean silence?

“Let church members, during the week, act their part faithfully, and on the Sabbath relate their experience. The meeting will then be as meat in due season, bringing to all present new life and fresh vigor. When God’s people see the great need of working as Christ worked for the conversion of sinners, the testimonies borne by them in the Sabbath service will be filled with power.” 7T 19

**A Warning:** “The testimonies should be short, and of a nature to help others. Nothing will so completely kill the spirit of devotion as for one person to take up twenty or thirty minutes in a long testimony. This means death to the spirituality of the meeting.” GW 171.2

2. Must order of service always be the same?

- a. Sermon followed by testimonies of response
- b. Sermon, then communion after lunch

3. Must there always be a sermon?

“There are times when it is fitting for our ministers to give on the Sabbath, in our churches, short discourses, full of the life and love of Christ. But the church members are not to expect a sermon every Sabbath.” 7T 19

“Our people should not be made to think that they need to listen to a sermon every Sabbath. Many who listen frequently to sermons, even though the truth be presented in clear lines, learn but little. Often it would be more profitable if the Sabbath meetings were of the nature of a Bible class study. Bible truth should be presented in such a simple, interesting manner that all can easily understand and grasp the principles of salvation.” Letter 192, 1906.

B. Out of your comfort zone

1. Comfortable not necessarily good!
2. What are you going to do?

**Conclusion: John 4:23-24 -**

**“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”**