

A couple of weeks ago, I told you about how when I was in boot camp one of the members of my company raised the question of why we were running if we were a sailing corps. We all got a chuckle out of the way he chose to raise that question, both then and now. But at the time it led to another question.

I could understand why we had to receive academic training on the history, administration, and rules of the navy. I could understand why we had to undergo physical training and meet physical requirements. However, I struggled to understand why we had to march so much and why we had to practice it as much as we did. I mean I understood that marching was a military tradition and I recognized that it was an effective way of moving the entire company from one place to another. I even realized that we would have to march during our graduation ceremony and we wanted to look good doing it. But once I left boot camp, in my remaining 8 plus years, I never marched anywhere in a formation every again.

It wasn't until I got to the fleet that I began to comprehend why learning to march was so important. Marching as a company requires teamwork. Otherwise it's not marching, it's ambling. It requires focus. You can't just walk at your own pace, you have to keep a certain amount of distance between yourself and others. You can't just turn at any point in any way, you must wait on the command and then execute the proper technique. It demands patience and practice. It's not easy to take a group of 75 people and teach them to move in unison. That's 75 people of different gaits. Some have rhythm others don't. Some can walk and chew gum at the same time, others can't. But like so much of boot camp, marching is designed to teach that the whole is greater than the sum of it's parts.

Church is much the same way. As we begin to look at the 5 functions of the church, we will see that 4 of the 5 are things we are capable of doing alone. Yet, God has called us to join together with others to do all 5 as one body. The motto of our local high school touts, the strength of the wolf is the pack. Well, the strength of the Christian is the Church.

Scripture: Various

I. Worship

A. Call to Corporate Worship (Heb. 10:24-25; 12:28-29; Ps. 95:6-7; 100:2)

1. Let US

- a. Show gratitude**
- b. Offer acceptable worship**

B. Components of Corporate Worship

1. Reverence and Awe

- a. **Humility & Respect**
 - i. **We are but sheep in the presence of royalty**
 - ii. **He is the King of King and Lord of Lords**
 - b. **Wonder & Amazement**
 - i. **He is our maker**
 - ii. **He is our caregiver**
- 2. Music and Singing**
- a. **Scripture**
 - i. **Psalm 150:3-5; 100:2**
 - ii. **Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16**
 - b. **Today**
 - i. **Hymns and Contemporary**
- 3. Prayer**
- a. **Emphasis of Jesus**
 - i. **Matt. 21:13**
 - b. **Examples**
 - i. **Acts 1:14 (24); 4:24; 12:5**
 - c. **Exhortation**
 - i. **Rom. 12:12; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17; James 5:16; 1 Peter 4:7**
 - d. **Today**
 - i. **Multiple occasions throughout the service**
 - ii. **Monthly prayer service**
- 4. Giving**
- a. **Scripture**
 - i. **Ex 20:24; Psalm 96:8; Mal. 3:10**
 - ii. **Acts 4:34-35; 2 Cor. 9:7**
 - b. **Today**
 - i. **Opportunity to give financially during service**
 - ii. **Opportunities to give in other means through ministries and outreach**
- 5. Studying the Bible**
- a. **Examples**
 - i. **Luke 4:16-17; Acts 17:2**
 - b. **Exhortation**
 - i. **1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim 3:16**
 - c. **Today**
 - i. **Small group studies (SS, Bible studies)**
 - ii. **Sermon**
- 6. Fellowship of believers**

- a. Examples**
 - i. Acts 2:42, 46**
 - b. Exhortation**
 - i. 1 John 1 :7**
 - c. Today**
 - i. Time allotted before SS & Worship service**
 - ii. Men's Mess, Family Fun Nights, Ladies' Night Out**
- C. Climax of Corporate Worship**
- 1. Every hour of everyday**
 - a. Rev. 4:8-11**
 - 2. Everyone and everything**
 - a. Rev. 5:11-13**