

The Elements of Early Christian Worship

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Earlier in our series we looked at what it was like to assemble as the church in the first century. Tonight we will move beyond the details of that primitive meeting to examine the basic elements that were consistent between all churches in the first and second centuries. We will begin by considering the testimony of some second-century writers, then we will review the elements of worship present in the New Testament. Finally, we will analyze two specific elements of worship in the early church, namely singing and the Lord's Table, returning to our discussion of the Didache from two weeks earlier.

1. Early Observations about Christian Worship

A. Pliny the Younger (circa 61-113)

B. Justin Martyr (103-165)

C. Clement of Alexandria (150-215)

2. Worship in the New Testament

A. Various Texts

B. Significant Observations

3. Music and the Lord's Table