

Training and Worship

In just about every sphere of human activity, we recognize that training is important. Employees have to train to carry out their jobs effectively (and many are required to take continuing-education classes after that). Athletes at any level must practice if they want to succeed against their competition. We feel that even prospective parents should take childbirth classes so that they know how to handle the various parts of the birth process.

Oddly enough, though, this emphasis on training does not commonly carry over into the work of the church. As a brotherhood, we spend a great deal of time discussing what we should do in worship. We want to make sure that we have authority for everything that we practice in the assembly. In this, we do well; it is essential that the Lord's church do all in the name of the Lord.

However, our focus on what our worship should be is nearly matched by our unconcern with how that worship should be carried out. Sure, we'll have the odd men's training class now and again, but the emphasis on training that is so prominent everywhere else is absent from the way we prepare for our assemblies. If we were a football team, our "practices" would consist of studying the rules of football, but only occasionally snapping a ball. Football players need to train to win, and men who serve in the assembly need to train to make their service as edifying and God-glorifying as possible.

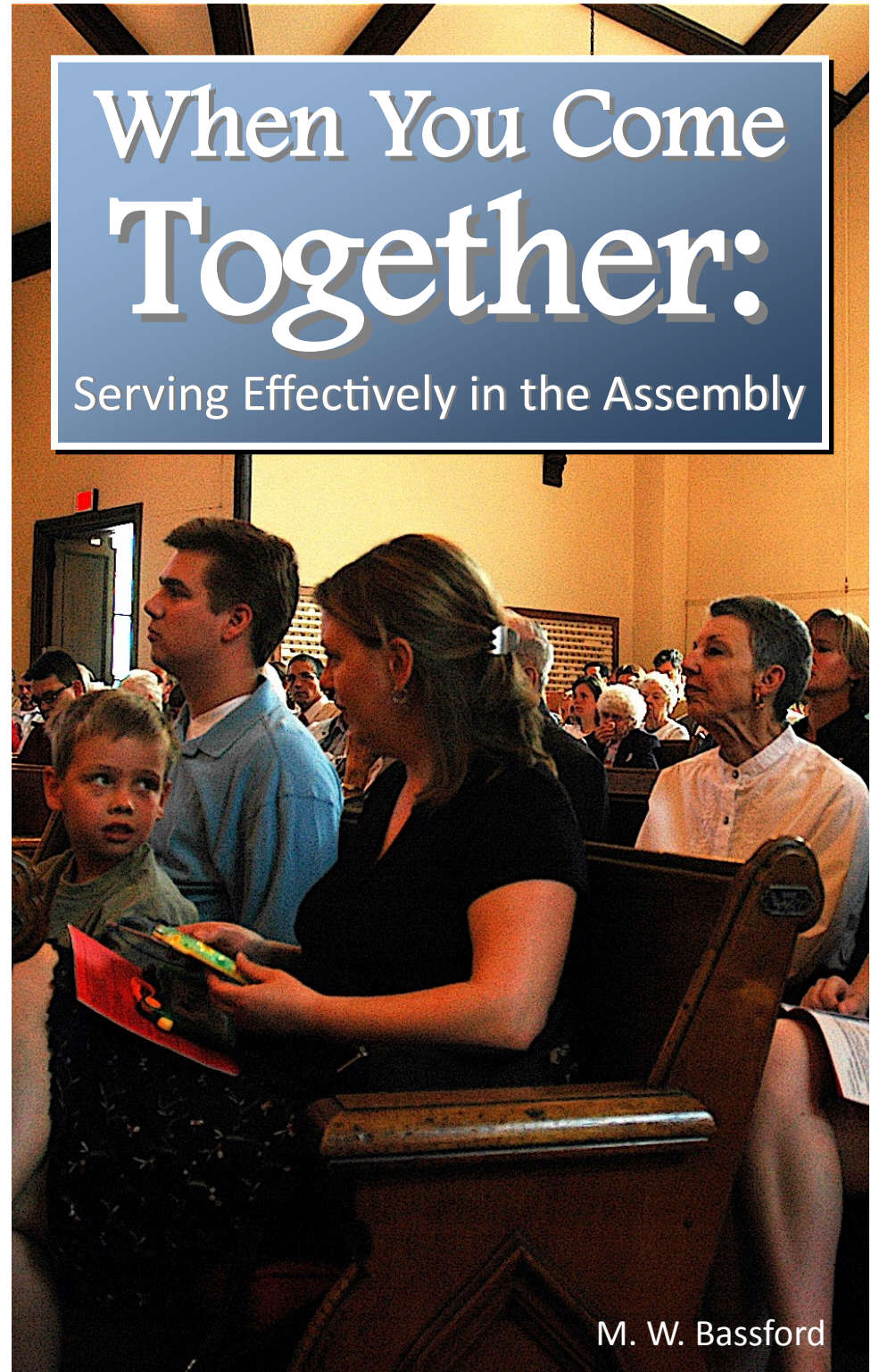
This workbook is intended to answer the need for training. The workbook itself, in addition to each session of study, will begin with a study of worship, a reminder that glorifying God ought to be the most important thing in our lives. After that, the workbook will be focused on application of what the Scripture says about the various acts of worship and the development, study, and practice of guidelines to help worship leaders lead worship more effectively. At the end of this process, every man will be equipped to serve in the assembly to the fullest extent that his abilities allow, to the greater glory of God.

About the Author

M. W. Bassford preaches for the church in Joliet, IL, where he lives with his wife, Lauren, his daughter, Zoë, and his son, Mark.

When You Come Together:

Serving Effectively in the Assembly



M. W. Bassford