

# Church of Christ

## ...Heart to Heart...

Is applause an appropriate response in the assembly? We need God's word to give us spiritual insight as to what is an appropriate response toward God and what is inappropriate. This will be a two-part article. Next week I'll follow with part 2.

We need to begin by understanding what the word "*Amen*" means and signifies. We use it at the close of our prayers, but do we really know its significance? (I used to hear it in our assemblies more.) Our English word "*Amen*" is a transliteration (meaning to spell a word from one language to another using corresponding letters of another alphabet and not a literal translation). The Hebrew word is "*Amhn*" which is derived from the Hebrew word "*Aman*" meaning "trustworthy, faithful." It is used of the character of God. In Deut. 7:9, we are told that God is "...the faithful ("*Aman*") *God*." He is characterized by His faithfulness in all His ways. God used the word to express His faithfulness and surety of His precepts (Isa. 49:7). God's people used the word to express their recognition of His faithfulness and their willingness to submit to His teachings (Deut. 27:15-26). Every time the Lord gave His instruction, the people were told to say "*Amen*". The word is used to express agreement and complete consent in praise to God (I Chron. 16:36). When God said "*Aman*", God was stating, "***it is and shall be so!***" When man uses the word, it means "***so let it be!***" It's a heart of worship and submission to what He states as faithful and true! His faithfulness and truth are affirmed by saying, "*Amen*."

In the New Testament, the word is spoken of as the title of Christ Jesus Himself (Rev. 3:14). Why is He, called by God, "*the Amen*"? Because He is faithful and all of God's purposes are established through Him. "***It is and shall be so!***" Praise is given to the Lamb of God, and four living creatures before the throne were saying, "*Amen*", "***so let it be!***" (Rev. 5:13-14) Angels, standing around the throne, fell on their faces, worshiped God saying, "*Amen*." (Rev. 7:11-12) Revelation ends with the words of Jesus, "*Yes, I am coming quickly*." John responds, "*Amen*", "***so let it be!***" It was a response to the faithfulness and divine nature of God and His Christ.

Paul taught the church at Corinth that in the assembly, things need to be understood rather than chaotic so the ungifted can say "*Amen*." (I Cor. 14:15-16) Some of the letters written end with "*Amen*." (Rom. 16:25-27; II Pet. 3:18; Jude 25)

What do we learn? "*Amen*" is more than a word said! It is a decision of submission and recognition of God's faithfulness. We agree with Him, and express that to Him in "*Amen*."

"*Amen*" is God directed. "*Amen*" is affirming that what is done or said is according to the truth. It is recognition of God's faithfulness. God speaks, "***it is and shall be so.***" We respond, "*Amen*", "***so let it be.***" Think about it!!!