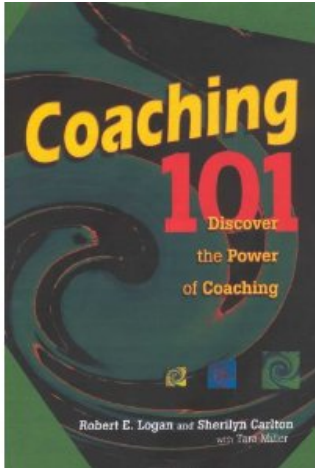




# EQUIPPER

A monthly ministry ezine from the Ministry Development Team of Grace Communion International (GCI) in the United States.

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Want to learn more about coaching? CAD recommends *Coaching 101* by Robert Logan and Sherilyn Carlton.



Newly certified ministry coach, Ken Williams

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Dear fellow traveler:

Several of us in CAD have just returned from Ontario, CA, site of the first of eight GCI-USA 2011 regional conferences. It's a dynamic conference, focused on helping us *journey with Jesus*—sharing what he is doing to fulfill the Father's mission. For information about other conference sites, see <http://www.gci.org/events>. In preparation, I recommend that you and your team read *Getting the Most from an Education Event*, a short article at [http://centerforcongregations.org/files/folders/using\\_resources/entry389.aspx](http://centerforcongregations.org/files/folders/using_resources/entry389.aspx).

On another topic, I thank God for the progress we are making toward fulfilling a key CAD goal: building within our movement **a coaching culture**. As you know, we train men and women to serve as coaches of GCI pastors and other congregational leaders. We also provide advanced training, leading to ministry coach certification. I am pleased to announce that regional pastor Ken Williams is the first to be certified. Several others are on their way. Congratulations to all! If you would like to arrange for coach training and certification, contact Randy Bloom at [Randy.Bloom@gci.org](mailto:Randy.Bloom@gci.org).

Below are links to some helpful ministry resources. Then on page two, GCI pastor Jonathan Stepp reminds us that true worship of God is "in Christ," where we share in the worship-filled communion of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I pray that your experience this month of that triune worship blesses you and yours, and that you will invite unchurched people to share the blessing with you.

In Christ,

Dan Rogers, CAD director

## Ministry Resources

- Concerning ways to reach out to the unchurched, see ideas for **servant evangelism** at <http://www.servantevangelism.com/matrix/matrix.htm>.
- For a helpful discussion on servant evangelism with **Steve Sjogren**, see the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmSimEdzarM&feature=related>.
- Email is an important part of ministry communications. For helpful rules concerning **email etiquette**, see <http://alturl.com/av6qs>.
- For a helpful example of a GCI worship service **offertory message**, watch the video on our *IT LOOKS LIKE THIS...* blog: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJ1MgimyXj8>.

Equipping pastors, ministry leaders and ministry workers for participation in ministry with Jesus.

## Worship in Light of the Trinity by Jonathan Stepp

Worship is inherent to the Triune Life. Similar to the way a loving married couple “worships” one another; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit enjoy a worshipful relationship of mutual love, respect and adoration (Mark 1:11).

This worship life of the Trinity has little in common with worship devised by humans to appease the angry gods of their imagination. Consider John in the first chapter of Revelation. At his first sight of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, he is struck with terror and prostrates himself – even though he earlier had laid his head on the chest of the pre-resurrection Jesus (Rev. 1:17, John 13:25). What is especially significant about John’s encounter with Jesus in Revelation 1, is Jesus’ response to John’s prostration and terror: Jesus places his right hand on John and says “Do not be afraid.” That is the worship of the Triune Life! The Father picks us up, throws his arms around us through his Son Jesus Christ, and says “do not be afraid.” The Father embraces us into the loving, adoring, joyful life of worship that he and the Son have always shared in the Holy Spirit.



This worship is a property of the Triune Life that Jesus is sharing with humanity. In the same way that Jesus is both “speaking God” and “listening man” (Andrew Purves, *The Crucifixion of Ministry*, p. 81), he is also “worshiped God” and “worshiping man.” Our human nature, broken and fallen, does not know how, and is not capable of such worship. All we are capable of doing is hiding in the bushes and barbecuing animals to appease the imaginary god we think is looking to kill someone to satisfy his imagined rage.

This is why the Father, through the Son, gave Israel its sacrificial system of worship. Having never seen God in the flesh as the man Jesus Christ, Israel could not imagine a god who did not need to be appeased by the blood of animals. Therefore, condescending to our human weakness, and stooping down to our level as spiritual infants, the Son instructed Israel through the Spirit in how to offer up an appeasing sacrifice in a way that would point to his future incarnation in our flesh and blood. In giving them this sacrificial system, the Son enabled Israel to enter into the worship relationship of the Triune Life in spite of their terror of God (Exodus 20:19.)

Now that the Son has entered our humanity, and raised our humanity up into the Trinity, the Father no longer needs to condescend to our terrified and fallen human nature. Now that humanity is in Christ, and Christ is in humanity, we are able to participate in the worship of the Triune Life. This is why we pray in Jesus’ name – and, in fact, carry out all worship in his name – because it is only in and through his humanity (his blood and flesh) that any real human worship ever takes place. Through his human nature, represented by his blood, he functions as humanity’s high priest and as the sacrificial offering of humanity up to the Father (Hebrews 10:19-22). By his Divine nature, he accepts the worship of humanity on behalf of the Father and the Spirit and gives to humanity the service, adoration, and sacrifice, of the Father and the Spirit.

This article is a very brief excerpt from the class, *Practice of Ministry*, which Jonathan teaches at Grace Communion Seminary. To find out more, go to [www.gcs.ambassador.edu](http://www.gcs.ambassador.edu).