

How Should We Worship? — Conclusion

Review

A. Introduction

1. What is worship?
2. Internal Worship
3. External Worship
4. Private External Worship
5. External Temple Worship

B. Primeval Worship (Cain and Abel; Seth's line; Noah)

1. "Calling upon (invoking) the name of the Lord" (offerings and altar).
2. Natural worship
3. Religious worship

C. Patriarchal Worship (Abraham; Isaac; Jacob)

1. The name that is called upon
2. The dialogical principle of worship
3. The Word-centered nature of worship

D. Old Covenant Worship

1. Temple worship is communal
2. Temple worship is covenantal
3. The temple choir
4. Omnipresence and special presence

E. New Covenant Worship

1. New and Old
2. The Parts of Worship

F. Gender Roles in New Covenant Worship

1. The women are to remain quiet in church
2. All individual speaking in temple worship ought to be either a reading/teaching of God's authoritative Word or a response to that Word by leading in prayer.
3. The men in every place (church) are to pray, read, and teach.

G. The Regulative Principle of Worship

1. "We are only to do *in worship* those things commanded by the word of God directly or [required] by good and necessary inference... Moreover, we must do all that the Bible requires."
2. Free Principle of Worship?
3. Essentials and non-essentials?
4. The Regulative Principle is not primarily about what we can't do, but about the _____ of what we are called to _____.

Order of Service

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to Worship (Congregational Scripture Reading) – God speaks
- Congregational Singing – Congregation responds
- Scripture Reading – God speaks
- Exhortations – God speaks
- Prayer – Congregation responds
- Teaching and Exhortation from God’s Word – God speaks
- Congregational Singing – Congregation responds
- The Lord’s Supper (Scripture reading and prayer) – God speaks and congregation responds
- Congregational Singing – congregation responds
- Benediction (Scripture reading) and congregational “Amen” – God speaks and congregation responds

- A. There is a simplicity and a beauty about this order of service that highlights in every way the _____, the _____, and the _____ nature of worship.
- B. This order of service includes _____ those parts of worship, and _____ of those parts of worship, that are prescribed in God’s Word.

Conclusion

- A. _____ do we go to church on Sunday morning?
- To be with other Christians? To sing songs? To pray? To learn things from God’s word?
- B. We need to be able to affirm the *prescribed* _____ that each of these activities has within the context of temple worship.
- A true understanding of the Regulative Principle of Worship will warn us against any hint of being lazy spectators and call us to engage diligently in every part of temple worship as active _____ in a running covenantal dialogue.

Simplicity and Purity

- A. The simpler the worship is, the surer we can be of its purity.

- B. This purity of the *worship* should not be confused with the purity of the worshiper's _____.
1. **Matthew 5:8** — Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
 2. **2 Timothy 2:22** — Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.
 3. **Psalm 24:3-4** — Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully.
 4. “On the Lord’s own day, gather together and break bread and give thanks, having first confessed your sins so that your sacrifice may be pure. But let no one who has a quarrel with a companion join you until they have been reconciled, so that your sacrifice may not be defiled [cf. Mat. 5:21-24]. For this is the sacrifice concerning which the Lord said, ‘In every place and time offer me a pure sacrifice, for I am a great king, says the Lord, and my name is marvelous among the nations’ [Mal. 1:11]” (*Didache*; 1st or 2nd century).
- C. When we say that the simpler the worship is, the surer we can be of its purity, this only reflects the legitimate desire that our worship, both internally and externally, should be wholly conformed to the _____ of God.
- “To worship in the way that we please, without proof that it is God’s will, is to worship our own will rather than God. And what must be vigorously stressed is that there is no other stable safeguard of the purity of true worship if this principle is abandoned.” (Williamson)
- D. When we include only the essentials of what God has prescribed for His worship we are never missing out on anything. Worship is not thereby impoverished but rather revealed in its true _____ and _____.

Simplicity and Universality

- A. It is the very simplicity of what God has prescribed for His worship that fits it for every conceivable cultural context.
- B. **Revelation 7:9-10** — “[The Lamb who was slain has] purchased for God with [His] blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation” (Rev. 5:8-9).
Revelation 7:9-10 — After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Simplicity and Beauty

- A. “The light of nature shows that there is a God, who has lordship and sovereignty over all; is just, good and does good to all; and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart and all the soul, and with all the might. But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God, is *instituted* by himself, and so *limited* by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshipped according to the imagination and devices of men, nor the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representations, or any other way not *prescribed* in the Holy Scriptures” (LBCF 22.1).
- B. May the Lord enable us to see the goodness and the beauty of His instituting, limiting, and prescribing His own worship. May the Lord give us _____, _____, and _____ in seeking to faithfully apply this biblical principle to the covenant worship of God’s covenant people.