

WORSHIP

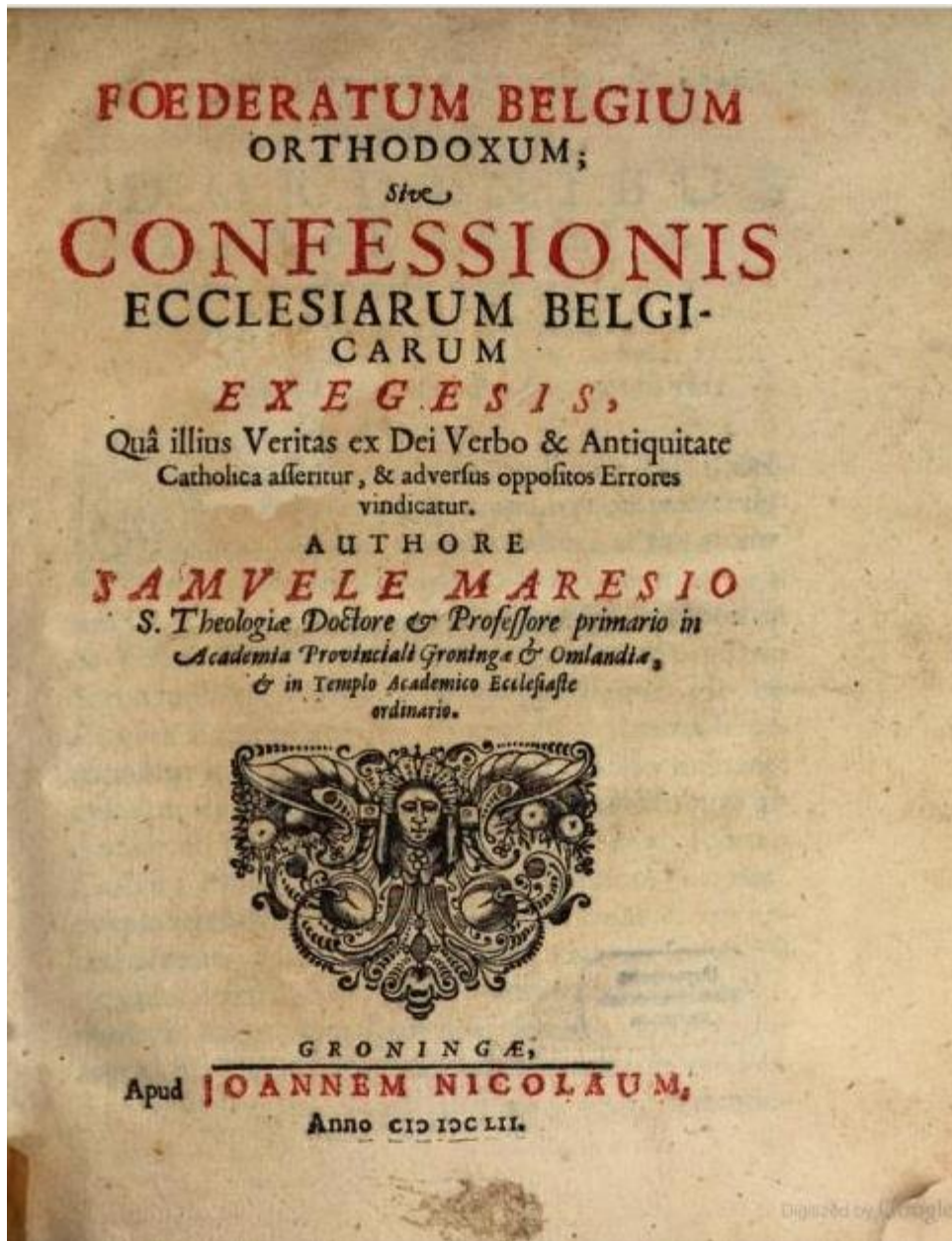
“The adoration, homage, or veneration given to a deity.”

(F & W Dictionary)

“...of God, by God, for God...” (Abe Lincoln)

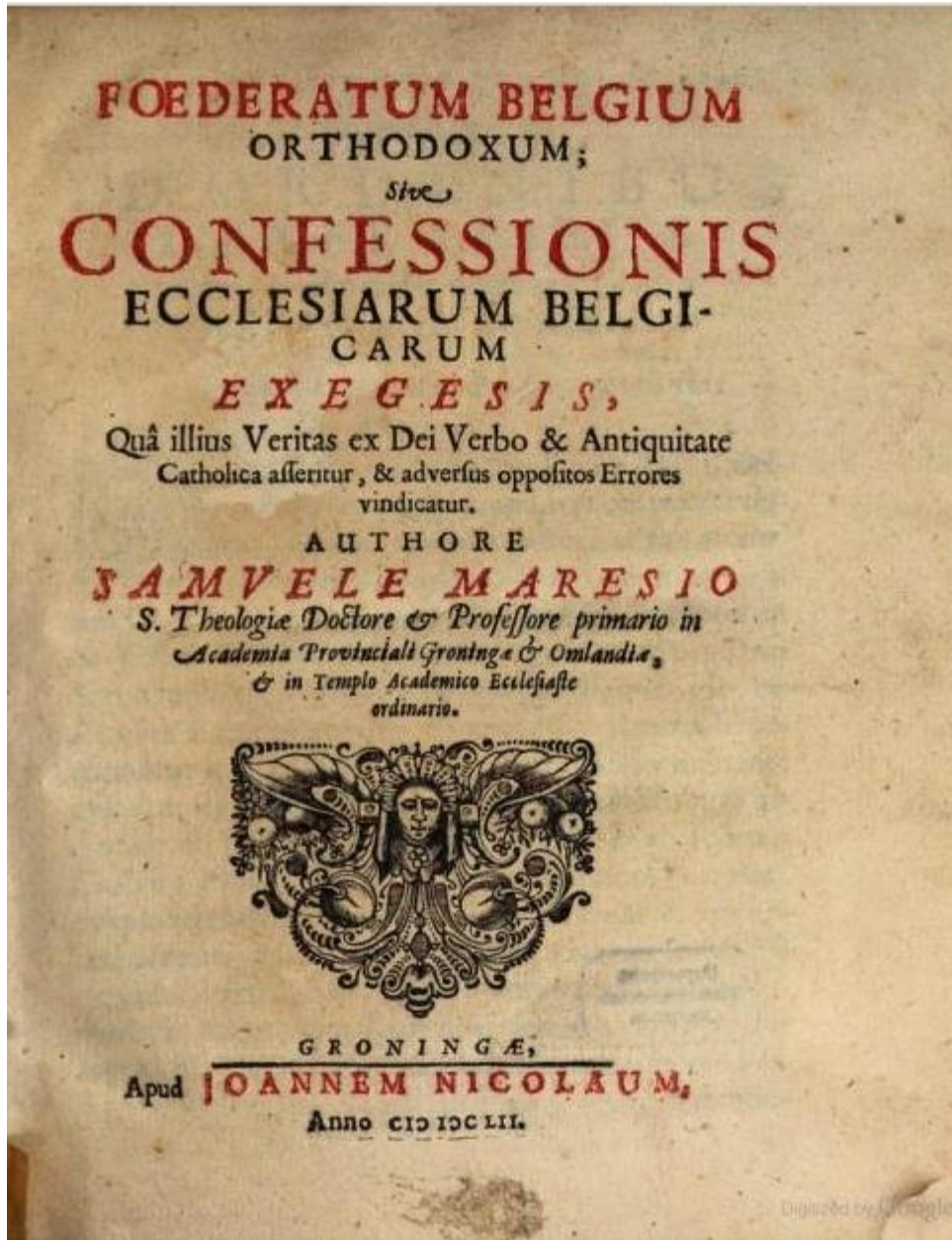


“...the entire project of the Protestant Reformation was about worshipping God in a way that pleased Him.”
(John Calvin)



The Belgic Confession of Faith, Article 7

“For since the whole manner of worship which God requires of us is written in them at large, it is unlawful for anyone, though an Apostle, to teach otherwise than we are now taught in the Holy Scriptures: nay, though it were an angel from heaven, as the apostle Paul saith.”



The word, then, contains all we need to know how to worship.

The Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #96

Q. What does God require in the second commandment?

A. "...nor worship Him in any other way than He has commanded us in His Word."

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Exodus 20: 1-17

The “Regulative Principle of Worship”

We worship God in the manner He has commanded us in His Word. This alone governs the substance of what we do in worship.

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Exodus 20: 1-17

Exodus 20:3 – *“You shall have no other gods before me.”*

Exodus 20:4 – *“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.”*

Exodus 20:6 – A promise:
“...showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”



Worship

To stray from the Word of God as to how He is to be worshipped is what Paul calls “will-worship.” (Col. 2:23). This is of no value.

Calvin: *“...that which is not according to the rule...”*

Lev. 9:16 – *“And he presented the burnt offering and offered it according to the rule.”*

Calvin: *“A voluntary worship which men choose of their own will, without a command from God.”*

Worship

Richard Sibbs: *“A device of their own brain, a brat, a child of their own begetting.”*

We may conclude that God is a jealous God (this is marriage language). His wife is Israel. And it is Israel who begets the church.

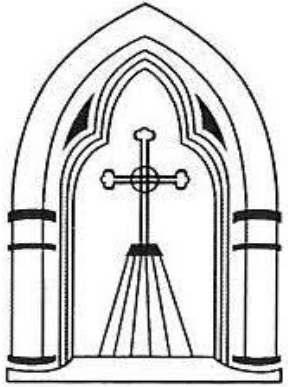
Heidelberg Catechism: Q & A #96

Q. What does God require in the second commandment?

A. *“That we in no wise make any image of God...”*



RICH^o SIBBES. D. D.



The West End Herald

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The Second Presbyterian Church
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Calvin: "...if we reflect how holy a thing God's worship is, the enormity of the punishment will by no means offend us."

The Regulative Principle of Worship

What happens if we don't do this?

- A. Cain and Abel (Gen. 4:1-6; Heb. 11:4)
- B. Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-3)

"Unauthorized fire"

Worship

New Testament Examples:

A. The Pharisees

Tradition: Mark 7:6-8; Colossians 2, especially verses 18-23
Self-made or what Calvin calls will-worship.

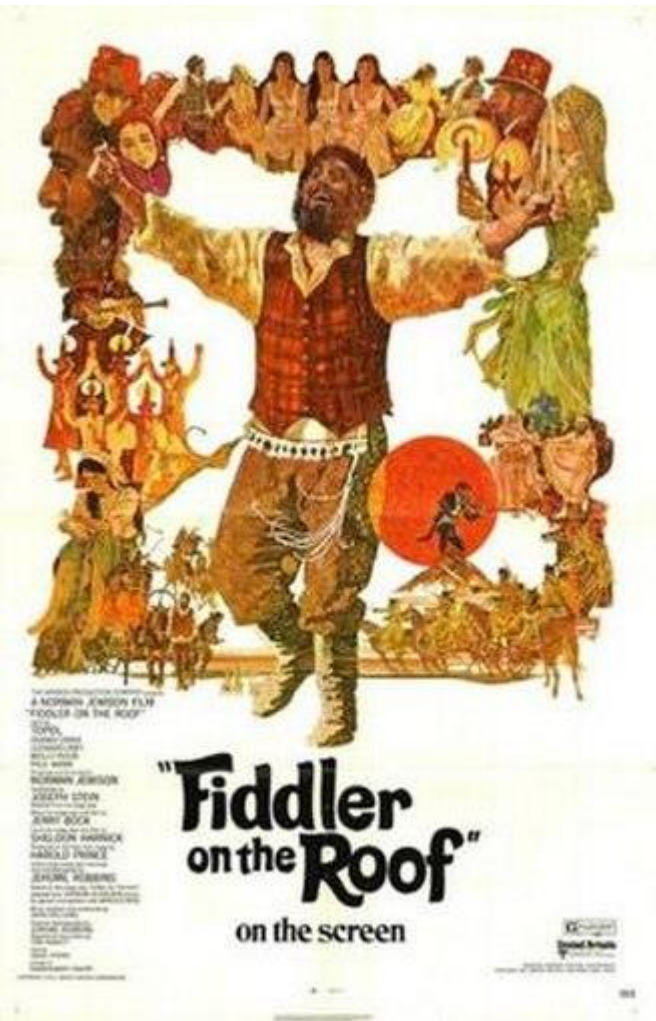
B. The Samaritan woman

John 4:19-26

Cannot worship God as you please.

C. Romans 1:21-25

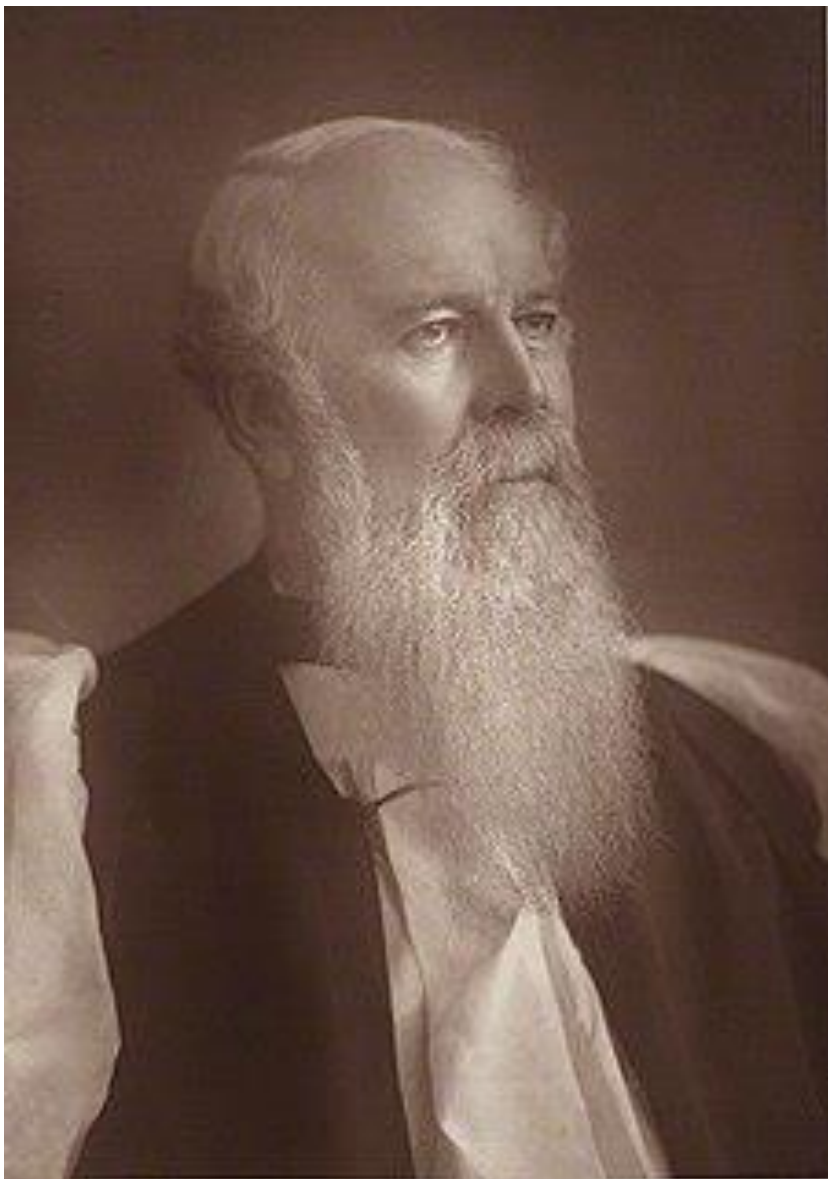
Condemns false worship of the creature or other than creator.





The Day We Worship

- A. Sabbath
 - 1. At creation – 7th day
Genesis 2:3; Ex. 31:17
 - 2. The decalogue Ex. 20:8-11
God's commands about His day.
- B. Sunday
 - 1. The resurrection of Christ!
 - 2. On the first day of the week.
John 19:30; WCF 21.7



A Gift that Structures us. This Day. His Day!

The Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #103

Q. *“What doth God require in the fourth commandment?”*

A. *“I especially on the day of rest diligently attend church to learn the Word of God, to use the holy sacraments, to call publicly upon the Lord, and to give Christian alms.”*

Ryle (p. 127)

These truths, especially expressed in the Regulative Principle, are what form Reformed Worship.



Conclusion

“When we are to attend upon God in solemn ordinances it concerns us to sanctify ourselves, and to get ready beforehand. Wandering thoughts must be gathered in, impure affections abandoned, disquieting passions suppressed, nay, and all cares about secular business, for the present dismissed and laid by, that our hearts may be engaged to approach unto God.”

Matthew Henry