

love God by Worshipping God Corporately

Review

- Love God
- by pursuing Him in the Word and prayer
- by worshipping Him corporately
- We are participants as New Covenant priests in offering worship to God through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit
- Not mere observers of a religious service
- Ultimately, worship is a giving of ourselves to God in response to His mercies in giving His Son for us (Rom12:1ff)

How is the content and form of God's worship to be determined?

- Deut 12:29-32 (John 4:23)
- Two major positions:
 - The Regulative Principle - only that which is commanded (Puritan view)
 - The Normative Principle - that which is commanded, and anything not forbidden (Church of England view)
- The reality that OC worship was highly regulated, prescribed, detailed, and particular
- NC worship is not so, and there is no equivalent to the book of the law with such detailed prescriptions
- OC worship as a detailed painting - manifested among a single people with a singular language and nearly uniform culture
- NC worship as a charcoal sketch - manifested into the nations with various languages and varying cultures
- Thus a biblical "skeleton" incarnated in the glorious diversity of human cultures
- This includes cultures within our own

A Biblical "skeleton" of NC corporate worship (piecemeal)

1. The Word of God (Acts 2:42, 1Cor14)
2. Prayers to God (Acts 2:42)
3. Singing to God and one another (Eph5:19-20)
4. The Lord's Supper (1Cor11/14) and Baptism (1Cor12:13)

- A dominate atmosphere of feasting with occasional atmosphere of fasting

5. Financial giving and generosity (1Cor16:1-2)

6. Ordinarily on the 1st day of the week as a celebration of Jesus' resurrection as emerges in the NT (Act20:7)

- Held together with an attempt at mutual edification, (1Cor14:26) decency, and orderliness (1Cor14:40)

Are there dangers to corporate worship?

- The danger of making too much of public worship as a replacement for vital heart spirituality - Matthew 15:9

- Assuming that the form and process is enough

- The importance of "presence" with heart

- The danger of passivity

- Neglecting the personal and relational dimension of discipleship

Why is corporate worship important for US?

(1) To sync up in regards to the apostolic mission as as a outpost of the Kingdom of God

(2) To mutually encourage, exhort, correct, and remind

(3) As a public testimony of the reality of God as creator, the resurrection of Jesus, and coming judgment

(4) As a witness against the individualism of (a) American culture, (b) the influences of Eastern religion, and (c) Relativism

What are some practical directives for corporate worship?

- The night before - prayer, bedtime, clothing,, food, etc.

- The morning of - prayer, heart preparation, arriving on time, atmosphere in auditorium, self-examination and the Lord's Supper

- The afternoon - prayer, remembering, discussion, applying the Word, prayer; the days following