Presbyterianism for Dummies

Week 8
Worship & Work Of the Church

- Membership Vow #4 (BCO 57-5) . . .

  4. Do you promise to support the Church in its WORSHIP and WORK to the best of your ability?

- Definition of terms . . .
  - ***WORSHIP***
  - ***WORK***

- *What is WORSHIP in the REFORMED tradition?*

Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF Ch. 21.1 & 2)

These sections show . . .

1. *Natural revelation is both _____ & _____.*
2. *Acceptable worship is _____ by God and _____ by his revealed will.*
3. *_____ alone is the object of worship.*
4. *God is worshipped only through a _____ and that is _____ _____.*

1. The light of nature sheweth that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all, is good, and doth good unto all, and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the might. (Rom. 1:20, Acts 17:24, Ps. 119:68, Jer. 10:7, Ps. 31:23, Ps. 18:3, Rom. 10:12, Ps. 62:8, Josh. 24:14, Mark 12:33) 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 imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture. (Deut. 12:32, Matt. 15:9, Acts 17:25, Matt. 4:9–10, Deut. 15:1–20, Exod. 20:4–6, Col. 2:23)

2. Religious worship is to be given to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and to Him alone; (Matt. 4:10, John 5:23, 2 Cor. 13:14) not to angels, saints, or any other creature: (Col. 2:18, Rev. 19:10, Rom. 1:25) and, since the fall, not without a Mediator; nor in the mediation of any other but of Christ alone. (John 14:6, 1 Tim. 2:5, Eph. 2:18, Col. 3:17)

- Worship . . . Is it MEDIATE OR IMMEDIATE?

_____ has affected man's relationship with God.

1. God's presence was _____. (Gen 3:22-24)
2. Man's _____ was darkened.

Acceptable worship MUST deal with _____.

True worship cannot exist except by _____ _____.

- _____ by God
- _____ by God
- _____ by God

Cain and Abel (Gen 4)

Nadab & Abihu (Lev 10:1-3)

Uncommanded Worship (Jeremiah 19:5)

Vain Worship (Mark 7:7)

3. **Prayer**, with thanksgiving, being one special part of religious worship, (Phil. 4:6) is by God required of all men: (Ps. 65;2) and, that it may be accepted, it is to be made in the name of the Son, (John 14:13–14, 1 Pet. 2:5) by the help of His Spirit, (Rom. 8:26) according to His will, (1 John 5:14) with understanding, reverence, humility, fervency, faith, love, and perseverance; (Ps. 47:7, Eccl. 5:1–2, Heb. 12:28, Gen. 18:27, James 5:16, James 1:6–7, Mark 11:24, Matt. 6:12,14–15, Col. 4:2, Eph. 6:18) and, if vocal, in a known tongue. (1 Cor. 14:14)

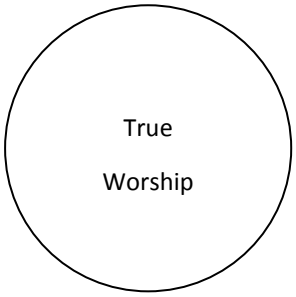
5. The **reading of the Scriptures** with godly fear, (Acts 15:21, Rev. 1:3) **the sound preaching** (2 Tim. 4:2) and **conscionable hearing of the Word**, in **obedience** unto God, with understanding, faith and reverence, (James 1:22, Acts 10:33, Matt. 13:19, Heb. 4:2, Isa. 66:2**) singing of psalms with grace in the he**art; (Col. 3:16, Eph. 5:19,13, James 5:13) as also, the due **administration and worthy receiving of the sacraments instituted by Chr**ist, are all parts of the ordinary religious worship of God: (Matt. 28:19, 1 Cor. 11:23–29, Acts 2:42) beside **religious oaths**, (Deut. 6:13, Neh. 10:29) **vows**, (Isa. 19:21, Eccl. 5:4–5) **solemn fastings**, (Joel 2:12, Esth. 4:16, Matt. 9:15, 1 Cor. 7:5) and **thanksgivings upon special occasions**, (Ps. 107, Esth. 9:22) which are, in their several times and seasons, to be used in an holy and religious manner. (Heb. 12:28)

WCF Ch. 21. 3 and 21.5

- The Worship Principle . . . Is it *REGULATIVE* or *NORMATIVE*?

- **The *REGULATIVE* Principle**
  - Only those elements _____ or _____ by command or example in the Scriptures are permitted.

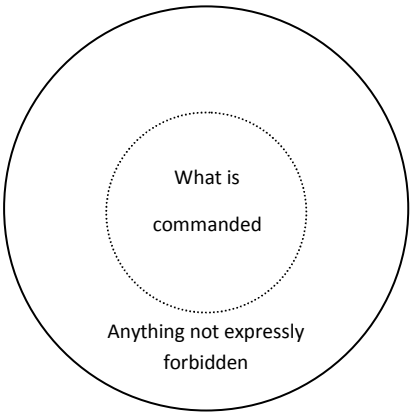
- **The *NORMATIVE* Principle**
  - Whatever is not _____ in Scripture is _____ in worship as long as it promotes unity and peace in the Church.



False Worship—

Anything outside that which is commanded

Does this mean that there is nothing that may be done in a Reformed worship setting except that which is explicitly commanded by the Scriptures?



False Worship—

Only what is expressly condemned or forbidden by God

Diagram from G.I. Williamson's The Westminster Confession of Faith for Study Classes.

***Next week** . . . We will flesh out the particulars of worship in a Reformed context.*

Recommended Reading and Resources

- **The Westminster Confession of Faith for Study Classes**

  G.I. Williamson, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing (P & R)

- **In the Face of God**

  Michael Horton, Word Publishing

- **Discovering the Fullness of Worship**

  Paul Engle, Great Commissions Publications

- **The Westminster Confession of Faith (online)**

  http://www.pcanet.org/general/cof_preface.htm