



CEDAR SPRINGS

PRESBYTERIAN

Live Deeply



PHILOSOPHY OF WORSHIP

Developed in part from *Worship in Spirit and Truth* by Dr. John Frame

GOD-CENTERED

Worship must be focused on glorifying the Trinitarian God and making His glory known with our actions.

“We worship for His pleasure foremost and find our greatest pleasure in pleasing Him. Worship must therefore always be God-Centered...It must be focused on the covenant Lord.”

-Dr. John Frame

GOSPEL-CENTERED

Worship must emphasize the aspect of gospel proclamation and mission that we find in Jesus’s last words to His disciples before His ascension.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19-20

4 DIMENSIONS OF WORSHIP

BROAD AND NARROW

We focus on highlighting the significance of holistic worship, which involves worship not only on Sundays but also throughout the entire week.

During Sunday morning worship, the reading of Scripture, preaching, Sacraments, singing, and Confessing Faith represent the narrow view of what worship means. The broader concept of biblical worship extends to daily devotion or how individuals express their worship to God with their lives.

VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL

When gathering to worship, the mutual affection we share for God and the interaction we have with each other strengthens and unifies us in a way completely unique to the believer.

During Sunday morning worship, our music ministry focuses on directing believers toward the “vertical” or God-ward direction of worship. However, another biblically emphatic principle of worship is the “horizontal” or man-ward dimension of worship. *This is not to be confused with saying that we are the objects of our own worship which is heresy if left at that.*

3 IMPACTS

OUR WORSHIP MUST AWAKEN THE MIND.

Every element of worship must be saturated with Biblical truths that illuminate God's great story of salvation and our role in it. A right and true comprehension of God - His past actions, current work, and the expectant fulfillment of future promises - should naturally lead to a worshipful response. The deeper your understanding of God, the stronger your desire to respond in loving adoration to Him and to find your ultimate satisfaction in Him [Psalm 145].

OUR WORSHIP MUST AWAKEN THE HEART.

Every element of worship, particularly the music, must be warm and uplifting to aid in expressing our love for God and His for us. Simple intellectual understanding is not enough, as even demons believe and tremble [James 2:19]. To truly render to God the worship He due and be the worshippers He seeks, we must engage both the intellect and emotions - in spirit and in truth.

OUR WORSHIP MUST AWAKEN THE WILL.

Each element of worship must prepare us to return to the world around us, inspired to offer ourselves in compassionate service, following our Lord's example, for the betterment of the world and in service to His kingdom. Through our worship, we communicate the truth about God, wholeheartedly devote our affection to Him, and seek to align our actions with His purpose [Ephesians 4:1] to love the Lord our God and to love our neighbors as ourselves [Matthew 22:34-40].

2 IMPERATIVES

OUR MEETING TIMES ARE INITIATED BY GOD.

He calls us to worship Him and instructs us on how He desires to be worshipped. It is crucial that we seek the counsel of His Word to inform every part of our services. Scripture forms the foundation on which we develop the content, structure, and style of our services whether we directly quote Scriptures, present them in poetry, or refer to historical resources like creeds, confessions, and catechisms.

OUR MEETING TIMES ARE DESIGNED TO BE FULLY PARTICIPATORY.

When we worship God with music, sing along joyfully! During Scripture reading, fully immerse yourself in His loving words. When we preach, listen attentively to the Word of the Lord meant just for you. When we confess our faith, do so boldly! And in prayer, pray like God is listening and will respond according to His plan for your good and His glory. Every aspect of our service is designed for active engagement, not passive consumption.

1 LORD

WE ALWAYS RETURN TO WHERE WE STARTED. THE SUM AND SUBSTANCE OF ALL OUR WORSHIP IS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED.

"And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

1 Corinthians 2:1-5