

The Characteristics of Worship: Part 4

I. Elements (Part 2).

A. The Word.

1. The reading of Scripture: 1 Tim. 4:13; Neh. 8.
2. The preaching of Scripture: 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Rom. 10:14-17; 2 Cor. 4.
3. The confession of Scripture: 2 Tim. 1:13-14 – “standard” = “Blueprint”; cf. also 2 Tim. 2:11-13; Dt. 6:4; 1 Tim. 3:16 as confessional statements in Scripture.
4. The reciting of Scripture, as in responsive reading: Ps. 136.

B. Various Forms of Prayer: Mt. 6 (Lord’s Prayer); Acts 2:42; Phl. 4:6-9; 1 Tm. 2:9.

1. Invocation.
2. Prayer of confession of sin.
3. Pastoral prayer/prayer of supplication.
4. Prayer of thanksgiving.
5. They need not all be separate.

C. Singing: Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Acts 16:25; Mt. 26:30; 1 Cor. 14:15, 26; Psalms in the temple.

D. Sacraments.

1. Mt. 26; Acts 20; 1 Cor. 11:23 ff.; Mt. 28:19
2. We perform them in the corporate, public worship service because both baptism and the Lord’s Supper are signs and seals connected to the body. Baptism, among other things, is the rite of membership in the visible church. The Lord’s Supper, among other things, signifies and seals our communion with Christ, who meets with us during the corporate worship service. It signifies and seals the communion of Christians with one another as a result of our union with Christ. These are theological inferences we draw from Scripture and thus find justification according to the RPW and our Scriptural guidelines by which God *requires* that they be done in corporate worship.

E. Tithes and Offerings.

1. 1 Cor. 16:1-2; apostolic example.
2. Tithing? Pre-Mosaic; Christ reinforced it – Mt. 23:23; Ps. 96:8 puts it in worship; Heb. 13:15-16; Acts 2:42 – “fellowship”: Calvin & almsgiving.

F. Benediction.

1. Num. 6; 2 Cor. 13:14.
2. Paul fulfilled the Biblical mandate from Num. 6 which brought it out of priestly mode in OT worship into NT worship.
3. It is not a doxology, so don't use them for it. Rather, 1 Th 4:23-24; Heb 13:20; Rom 16:13, 24; 2 Cor 13:14; Num 6:24-26; Ep. 6:23-24; etc.
4. It is not a prayer. It is a blessing upon God's people that Christ pronounces by His living word through the instrument of the ordained minister. Thus, it should be received by faith, looking up to the one by whom it is pronounced.

G. Special Elements: esp. Vows.

1. WCF 21:5.
2. For Biblically authorized functions: church membership; baptism; officer ordination.

II. Conclusion.

A. The Above are Non-Negotiable!!

1. Some, however, are occasional elements, such as oaths and vows.
2. Some need not necessarily be repeated in successive services on the same Lord's Day. For example, if confession of sin is included in the morning worship, it could perhaps be replaced by confession of faith in the evening, or just not repeated.