

LOVING THE BRIDE OF CHRIST: What is a Healthy Church Member?

*Mark #10 – Worships God's Way
(Part II): Covenant Worship*

"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" (Ps 122:1)

I. Introduction: What is Worship?

A. Worship exists because the "worth-ship" of God exists.

"...for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God..." (Ex 20:5)

"Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name" (Ezek 36:22)

"This is shocking. The love of God is not God's making much of us, but God's saving us from self-centeredness so that we can enjoy making much of him forever. And our love to others is not our making much of them, but helping them to find satisfaction in making much of God... The greatest news in all the world is that there is no final conflict between my passion for joy and God's passion for his glory. The knot that ties these together is the truth that God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him."

– John Piper, "The Goal of God's Love May Not Be What You Think It Is," *Dallas Morning News*, Oct 14, 2000.

1. How is the fact that God's seeks His own glory not narcissistic or arrogant?

"True worship occurs only when that part of man, his spirit, which is akin to the divine nature (for God is spirit), actually meets with God and finds itself praising Him for His love, wisdom, beauty, truth, holiness, compassion, mercy, grace, power, and all His other attributes."

–James Boice, *The Gospel of John: Vol 1*, 296-97.

B. Worship exists because God's has revealed Himself.

Moses said, "Please show me your glory"... The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty..."⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. (Ex 33:18, 34:5-8)

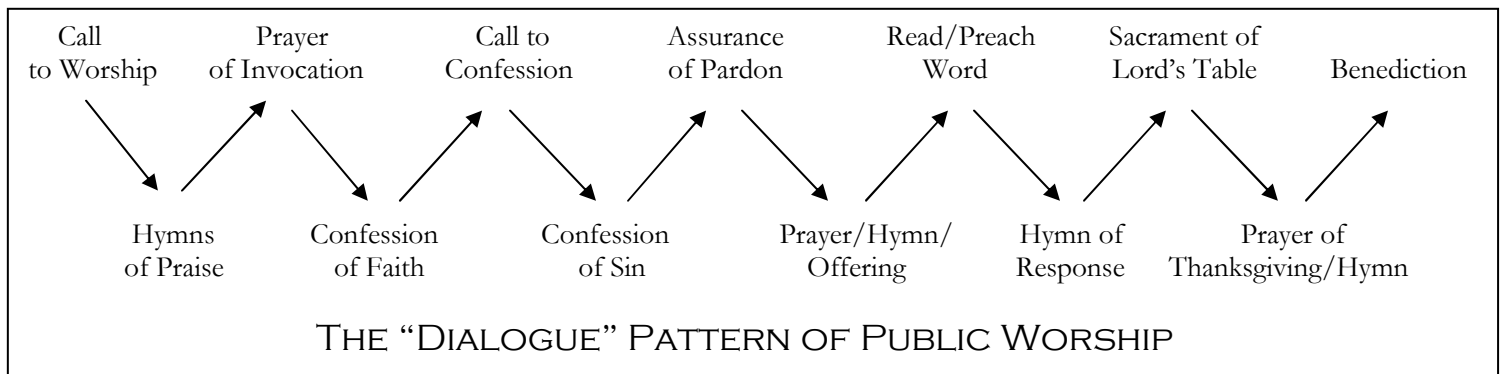
Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:26-28)

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened...because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. (Rom 1:18-25)

II. Application: The “Dialogical” Principle for Worship

“A service of public worship is not merely a gathering of God’s children with each other, but before all else, a meeting of the triune God with His chosen people. God is present in public worship not only by virtue of the Divine omnipresence but, much more intimately, as the faithful covenant Savior.”
 (PCA Book of Church Order: Directory for Worship, 47-2)

A. Is this “dialogue” between equal parties? If not, what happens in this dialogue? What should be happening to us in this dialogue?



“If we disregard the dialogical principle, if we become too lopsided with what we say instead of coming into his presence to hear him speak to us and then responding on the basis of what he has said and done, we will not only rob God of the adoration that is his due, but also deprive ourselves of the blessing he would have for us as he condescends to meet us.”
 -D.G. Hart and John R. Meuther, *With Reverence and Awe*, 102.

- **This Sunday, try to consciously follow the “dialogue” of the morning’s worship service. Does it make sense? Are you listening and responding well?**

“I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”” (Ps 122:1)