

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

*Mark #11 – Worships God’s Way
(Part III): Liturgy Logic*

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

I. Review of Worship Principles

A. The Regulative Principle – Worship that pleases God is based on His revealed will in Scripture.

“Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.” (Deut 12:32)

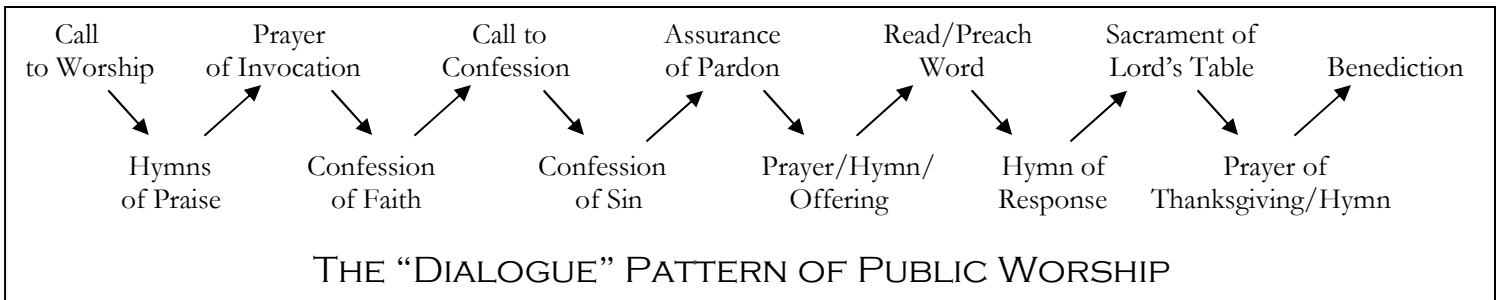
“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.” (John 4:23)

“To put it simply, in worship we *pray* the Bible, *sing* the Bible, *read* the Bible, and *preach* the Bible and see the Bible (in the sacraments). The language of Christian worship is the language of Scripture.”
-Terry L. Johnson, *Reformed Worship*, 34.

B. The Dialogical Principle – God’s revelation and our response constitutes the “dialogue” pattern for worship.

“Go near and hear all that the LORD our God will say and speak to us all that the LORD our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.” (Deut 5:27)

“When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one...” (Rev 1:17-18)



“The covenantal structure not only establishes the dialogue between God and his people in the sacred and solemn assembly of worship, but also gives us assistance for the order of Reformed worship.”
- D.G. Hart and John R. Meuther, *With Reverence and Awe*, 98.

II. The “Gospel-Logic” of Reformed Worship

A. The Call to Worship – *“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!² Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!” (Ps 100:1-2)*

- The Call to Worship, spoken by the minister on behalf of God, introduces the divine human dialogue by serving as a divine summons to the people for the purpose of worship.
- The Call to Worship should, as far as possible, secure our attention for the all-important activity of corporate communion with God in which it is our priceless privilege to participate.

B. Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

- This prayer carries the two-fold purpose of praising God and invoking His presence at worship. The minister prays this prayer on behalf of God's people.
- It should name (1) the object of our worship, (2) the grounds of our worship, and (3) the means of our worship.

“Our worship is inspired by the Spirit, led by the Spirit, warmed by the Spirit, and purified by the Spirit. There is a major theological point to be observed here. Christian worship is part of the procession of the Holy Spirit from the Father and the Son.”
 - Hughes Oliphant Old, *Leading in Prayer*, 14.

C. Hymn of Praise and Confession of Faith

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!” (Ps 100:4)

*“Aside from being what God alone deserves, praise reinforces the reason Christians have assembled.” - Hart and Meuther, *With Reverence and Awe*, 98.*

“...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Rom 10:9)

- What would you say to a friend who said he/she has “no creed but the Bible”?

D. Confession of Sin and Pardon

“And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.⁵ And I said: ‘Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’” (Is 6:4-5)

E. Reading of Scripture and Sermon

“And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel.² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month.³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday... And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.⁴ And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose...⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground...⁷ [The Levites] read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.” (Neh 8:1-8)

F. The Lord's Supper

“The heart of the Supper is the broken bread and outpoured wine, which serve as symbols of Christ's body and shed blood... Christ is not localized in the bread and wine (Catholic view), nor is he absent from the Supper as though our highest activity were remembering him (the memorialist view). Rather, he is known through the elements, by the Spirit. There is a genuine communion with Christ in the Supper.” -Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*, 200-201.

G. Benediction

- Benediction literally means “good word”. It is both a (indirect) prayer and a divine blessing for the saints as they leave the assembly.