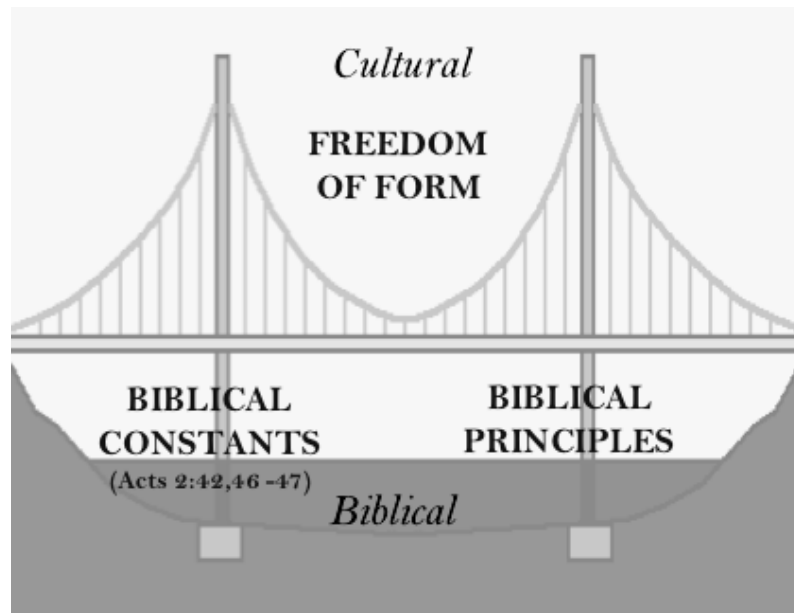


Calvin Symposium on Worship 2009

A FIRM FOUNDATION: Biblical Principles of Worship



INTRODUCTION

I. THE BRIDGE

A. BIBLICAL CONSTANTS (ACTS 2:42,46-7)

1. Word of God
2. Fellowship
3. Lord's Supper
4. Prayer
5. Praise

6. Christ- and gospel-centered

B. FREEDOM/FLEXIBILITY OF FORM

1. Diversity & unity
2. History & tradition
3. Cultural context

4. *The Nairobi Statement on Worship and Culture*
 - a. Transcultural
 - b. Contextual *simultaneously!*
 - c. Counter-cultural
 - d. Cross-cultural

C. BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES (fuller version at www.worr.org/articles)

1. **DOXOLOGICAL WORSHIP:** God's glory, and our joyful celebration of it in worship, should be the focus and goal of all life and ministry.

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
(1Cor. 10:31)

2. **THEOCENTRIC WORSHIP:** Worship is first and foremost for God.

"Worship God."
(Revelation 19:10; 22:9)

3. **DIALOGICAL WORSHIP:** Worship is a dialogue between God and His people, a rhythm of revelation and response.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.
(Psalm 96:4)

4. **WORD-SATURATED WORSHIP:** The Word must be central in our worship.

Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
(Psalm 150:2)

5. **PARTICIPATORY WORSHIP:** Worship is the responsibility of all of God's people.

So we Your people and the sheep of Your pasture will give thanks to You forever.
(Psalm 79:13)

6. **CHRIST-LED WORSHIP:** Our worship is acceptable in and through Christ our High Priest.

"In the midst of the assembly I will sing Your praise."
(Hebrews 2:12)

7. **SPIRIT-ENABLED WORSHIP:** Our response of worship is enabled, motivated and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

We are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.
(Philippians 3:3)

8. **WHOLE-LIFE WORSHIP:** Worship is the response of our entire lives to God.

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
(Romans 12:1)

9. **HEART WORSHIP:** God is much more concerned with our heart than with the form of our worship.

“I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice.”
(Hosea 6:6)

10. **EDIFYING WORSHIP:** Worship should promote the unity and edification of the body.

Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
(Romans 15:5-6)

11. **TRANS-GENERATIONAL WORSHIP:** Young and old need each other in the Body of Christ.

Young men and maidens, old men and children: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted.
(Psalm 148:12-13; cf. Tit 2:2-8))

12. **TAUGHT WORSHIP:** These things must be taught and re-taught.

Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.
(1 Thessalonians 4:1)

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www.worr.org
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