

Directory For Public Worship

Week 1: Preface, Chapter 1A.1 (& FOG Ch. 1)

Purpose of Class: To help us understand better:

Why we worship the way we do

How it is administered & protected

What is the purpose of worship

What makes up worship, and why

Or, simply, to present the biblical view of worship.

My hope is that we will see how our theology informs the way we think about, order, and participate in a worship service.

The Preface begins with a purpose statement for the document as a whole:

To express the Church's common understanding of the principles and practice of public worship that is Reformed according to the Scriptures and, subordinately, to the Confession and Catechisms.

In the cultural moment in which we live, where the predominant view of ecclesiastical authority and prerogative is very low, it seemed to me worthwhile to consider what authority the church has, or what warrant, for producing a document like this.

So, let's briefly consider the opening statement from our Form of Government.

Read 1.1

Source of ecclesiastical authority

Read 1.2

Scope of ecclesiastical authority

Read 1.3

Breadth of ecclesiastical authority

Read 1.4

Nature of ecclesiastical authority

Returning to the Preface of DPW – A quick clarification is given for how we read the rest of the document. This is given as two classes:

Mandatory

Circumstantial.

Under circumstantial there are three subcategories:

Strongly recommended

Suitable

Permissible

Clearly this is assuming subscription to the regulative principle of worship. Could someone describe/explain that for us briefly?

A few thoughts to interact with quickly:

We are more sincere (in worship) when we are spontaneous and liberated from the restraint of liturgy, therefore formal, regulated worship is contrived and insincere.

How might we respond to that?

Is there any significant difference between the term “worship service” & “worship experience”?

Chapter 1A

1 Worship – begins as a mandate by God for all to worship Him. Ps. 66:1-4 or Is. 45:21-23

1a Specific Worship – Life generally to be worshipful in keeping with I Cor. 10:31, but from the earliest pages, scripture teaches us that there are specific action of worship.

1b Worshippers – John 4:23&24.

1c Assembled Worship – In addition to specific acts of worship, there are specific venues for worship. We see from Deut. 6 & Matt. 6 that the concept of family worship and secret worship are easily established as biblical. Broad testimony of scriptures indicates times of assembled worship. And, we are duty bound to not neglect it. Heb. 10:25