

## Directory For Public Worship

### Week 6: Chapter 1.D

Purpose of Class:

to present the biblical view of worship. To see how our theology informs the way we think about, order, and participate in a worship service.

Recap: Last week we covered most of 1.D

This week will finish on 1.D and survey chapter II

2a – Worship responsibility/accountability – Heb. 13:17

2b – Ministerial prerogatives

WLC 158 (I Tim. 3:2-6; Eph.4:8-11; Jer. 14:15; Heb. 5:4, Rom. 10:15 and others)

2c – Probation with limitations

2d – Maybe the Elders?

2e – Special Circumstances

2f – None else

Chapter II – Elements of Ordinary Public Worship

What is the difference between an element and a circumstance?

Ordinary elements broken down into 2 categories:

- A. The Part from God to the People
- B. The Part from the People to God

Under A is the following:

- Call to worship
- Public reading of the Word
- Preaching of the Word
- Sacraments
- Blessing

Under B is the following:

- Public Prayer
- Congregation Singing
- Public Confession of Faith

- Bringing of Offerings

How does formal discipline fit into this categorical structure?

**A:**

### **Call to Worship**

If we already are summoned to worship the Lord on this day, why is a call necessary/recommended?

Why, ordinarily, should it be the minister who gives the call?

### **Public Reading of God's Word**

Drawing on what we saw previously (WLC 155), reading/hearing of God's word is absolutely essential in worship.

Why ought not comments be interspersed in the reading?

Why is it important to include OT & NT readings?

Both being valuable, why are "back and forth" readings not a substitute for the public reading?

### **Preaching of God's Word**

Very strong language used in our DPW for this category.

Indispensable

No "Man's wisdom"

Handled correctly – Setting forth Jesus Christ

God is addressing His people, His Spirit is opening our ears

Sermons to be prepared prayerfully & diligently

No "soapboxing"

*Having regard to the capacity of the hearers (under 3b)*

Build up saints/plead with sinners

Gospel of salvation proclaimed without adulteration or compromise

Whole Counsel of God

Elders strictly guard the pulpit

### **Sacraments**

No private practice

Generally only for ordinary worship services with limited exceptions

We're not Donatists, but still require a minister

### **Blessings**

Salutation/Benediction

Fitting to open & close the worship service

Only by the minister

**B:**

### **Public Prayer**

Essential

By faith, in Christ's name, by the Spirit's help, according to God's will

*How might the session provide circumstances conducive to the people adopting an attitude appropriate to worship?*

Use of the plural – diligently prepared

The minister is the “the regular” – substituted by session during absence.

- Prayer of response to the call to worship
- Comprehensive prayer (our morning prayer of intercession)
- Prayer of Confession
- Offertory prayer
- Sermon Prayer
- Lord's Prayer fitting
- Corporate “Amen's”

### **Congregational Singing**

Duty & Privilege

With understanding, grace in our hearts

Not designed for entertainment

Psalms in some settings commended

Selection of songs to be done with great care

Music properly used as an assist

## **Public Confession of Faith**

Admittance into the visible church in front of the visible church

Ongoing (regular) confession of faith

## **Offerings**

Solemn Act

Presented with thanksgiving

Parents set the precedent for their children

Pastor duty bound to cultivate stewardship

Session duty bound to guard the uses of the offerings

Mercy offering