

Worship God

The Theology and Practice of Worship (Part Nine)

Corporate Worship

The phrase “corporate worship”...

1. Highlights the truth that all of life is worship not merely the activity of the gathered church
2. Maintains that there is a unique expression of worship that occurs in the assembly
3. Emphasizes that the entire service is worship not merely the singing portion of the service

Corporate Worship

Worship in the Assembly

➤ *Qualifications*

1. There is very little New Testament prescription
2. Descriptions are not necessarily prescriptive
3. Not every meeting contained every element

Corporate Worship

Worship in the Assembly

- corporate prayer (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 2:1)
- reading of Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13; 1 Thess. 5:27)
- teaching/preaching of Scripture (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 4:13-16)
- singing praises (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
- mutual encouragement/exhortation (Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 14:3)
- confession of the faith (1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 10:23)
- receiving and distributing gifts (Acts 4:35; 1 Cor. 16:2)
- the Lord's Supper and table fellowship (Acts 2:46; 20:7)

Corporate Worship

Purpose of the Assembly

We meet together to engage with God through His word and the operation of the Holy Spirit in the assembly of His people

Corporate Worship

Colossians 3:16

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Corporate Worship

Colossians 3:16

➤ *Observations*

1. The centrality of the Word of Christ
2. The emphasis on mutual edification
3. The unique place of singing

Corporate Worship

Centrality of the Word

1. Its function

- God's word is a primary means by which we engage with God
- God's word equips us for living all of life as worship
- Rehearsing God's word is a means of confessing our faith

Corporate Worship

Centrality of the Word

2. The means

- singing Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
- public confession of the faith (1 Tim. 3:16)
- public reading of Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13)
- preaching/teaching of Scripture (2 Tim. 4:1-4)