

The Spirituality of Worship

I. The Spiritual Principle of Worship.

A. The Efficient Cause of Worship.

1. John 4:24: “those who worship Him must worship in Spirit...”
2. Worship is enabled by the Holy Spirit working through our spirits.
3. Worship is in the Spirit when the worshiper is regenerate and pursuing holiness.

B. The Manner of Worship.

1. The third commandment: Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11.
2. Worship must not be heartless: i.e., marked by wandering minds, sinful thoughts, inattentiveness, etc. Cf. WCF 21.5, 6; WLC 160.
3. Worship is to be from the heart, with skill.

II. The Implications of the Spiritual Principle.

A. Worship Must Be from the Heart.

1. Mark 7:7 – sincerity.
2. Jeremiah Burroughs, *Gospel Worship*, pp. 45, 106-148.
 - a. Worship with heart, mind, and will engaged.
 - b. Worship with our hearts near to God.
 - c. With sanctified hearts.
 - d. With high thoughts of God.
 - e. With reverence and fear.
 - f. With our full strength.
 - g. With humility.
 - h. In Christ’s name.

B. Worship Must Be Simple.

1. OT worship was characterized by more elaborate rituals.
2. NT worship is simpler, less marked by externals: WCF 7.5, 6.
3. The tendency and pattern is for people who are not worshiping in Spirit to move toward aesthetics and ceremonies.

C. Worship Must Be Reverential.

1. Ecclesiastes 5:1-2: worship is a matter of forethought, care, and preparation.
2. It is a matter of attitude: adoration with godly fear; rejoicing with trembling, even in celebration: Ps. 2:11.
3. We must use reverent music.
 - a. We must avoid the trivial; we must not sing jingles to God.
4. The use of silence is a consideration: Hab. 2:20; Zeph. 1:7; Zech. 2:13, etc.
5. The use of preparation is a consideration: WCF 21.8.

III. Conclusion.