

Sunday School: January 21, 2018

Biblical Worship

Recall from last time - Reformed worship is:

- Biblical (first and foremost)
- Historical (we come from many centuries of believing, practicing Christians)
- Covenantal (God is our God, and we are His people)
- Liturgical (has an order and pattern)
- Evangelical (gospel-centered)
- Reverential (through worship, we are dealing with the Eternal, Sovereign God)
- Joyful (brings joy to the heart)

Today we will see that Reformed worship is Biblical

We hold to the Regulative Principle of Worship: Scripture regulates our worship

This is also called the Prescriptive Principle of Worship: Scripture prescribes how we are to worship.

Exodus 20:1-4

- V1-2: God has redeemed us, therefore we are to listen and obey
- V3: We worship God alone
- V4: No images (representing the object of our worship)
No image of God
We worship God in the way He dictates
Is “sincerity” or “zeal” in worship all that matters??
Will God accept any worship so long as it is “sincere?”

Genesis 4

- V3-5: There is not much detail given, but it is clear that one act of worship was acceptable, and one was not
- Cain: just going through the motions?
- Worship *does* have to do with the heart, but not all worship is acceptable to God

Leviticus 10

- V1-3: The sons of the high priest assisted in worship
- They tried something new – “strange fire”
- This was not authorized
- God says “I will be sanctified”
- God determines what is acceptable or appropriate in worship
- God is serious about worship
- See also: 2 Samuel 6:6 – Uzzah was killed for touching the ark of the covenant in violation of God’s prescription that only the Levites were authorized by God)
- So we see, the *human* reason does not matter; God chooses what is acceptable in worship

Israel, as God's people began to spiral into disaster

- Disobedience / worshipping other gods / failure to worship the way God commanded
- Israel did not fall because of economics, or the need for living space, or because of bad laws, etc
- The Northern Kingdom established images in Dan and Beersheba as places of worship, in violation of God's command that He would be worshipped in the temple in Jerusalem
- The "Golden Calf" incident at Mt Sinai was an attempt to "enhance" worship, to make worship "more relevant" by representing Yahweh by a calf, like other cultures represented their gods
- The prophets repeatedly warned about worship that was not acceptable
- *The ongoing theme was disobedience in worship.* God is very interested in worship being done in accordance with His commands.

John 4

- Jesus tells the woman at the well that worship must be in spirit and in truth
- "Spirit" – sincerity is not enough – it must be true
- "Truth" – God determines what is true

Homework:

Read all of Deuteronomy 12