

Worship...In The Word

What The Bible Says About Corporate Worship

~ *Selected Scriptures* ~



Worship Wars

47% of evangelical churches now offer a traditional service and a contemporary service.

- *George Barna*

Worship wars exist because Christians ignore the Biblical teachings on corporate worship OR make personal preference equal to scriptural mandate.



Ending Worship Wars

The remedy is not to get my way but to submit our personal preferences to clear directives of scriptures. And when our preferences are not met, *and the musical worship is within biblical bounds*, we must defer to the preference of others. I believe it is only then that we will be able to worship God as HE desires in a way that is wholly pleasing to Him.



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Overview:

- This is a potentially massive undertaking
- **Sing** used 202 times; **Worship** – 183 times, **Praise** – 292. (*NAU version*)
- Does not cover rejoice, play (instruments), extol, exalt, etc.



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We Will Focus on What the O.T. and N.T. Says
About

- Singing/Praise (Personally and Corporately)
- Actions and Emotions in Corporate Worship
- Music as a Vehicle for Worship
- Musical Instrumentation in Corporate Worship

Note: Considering the cultural context of each



A Biblical Definition of Worship

Worship is ascribing to God the value or worth that is due Him.



O.T. Use of the Word "Worship"

O.T. word is predominantly *Shachah*, which means *bow down, revere*

- Most often pictures a person falling under the submission of a person greater than them
- Used 188 times, 18 times in the Psalms



O.T. Use of the Word "Praise"

O.T. Word group:

- **Halal** – *to boast or praise*, **Zamar** – *make musical praise with instruments*, **Shabach** – *laud or value*, **Tehillah** – *song of praise*; **Yadah** – *to praise*
- Praise used 254 times, 205 in the Psalms
- The overall idea is exaltation or ascribing value to God because of who He is or what He's done, through voice, instrument and expression/emotion.



God Enables Our Worship

Worship: The expression of a relationship in which God the Father reveals Himself and His love in Christ and by His Holy Spirit administers grace, to which we respond in faith, gratitude and obedience.

- Schapler



Musical Worship

The act of worshipping, glorifying or extolling God with our hearts, through our voices, often with musical accompaniment, as an assembled expression of the Body of Christ (*corporate*).



Does God Care How We Worship Him?

Regulative Principle:

- Worship of God (corporate emphasis) is governed by what is expressly commanded or can be drawn from good and necessary consequences in the Bible.
 - John Calvin

Normative Principle:

- We are free to do what we please in corporate worship as long as the Bible does not forbid it.
 - Martin Luther



Benefits of the Regulative Principle

The key benefit of the Regulative Principle is that it helps assure that God – not man - is the supreme authority for how corporate worship is to be conducted, by assuring that the Bible, God's own special revelation (and not our opinion, tastes, like and theories) is the prime factor in our conduct of and approach to corporate worship.

– Ligon Duncan



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Examples of Regulated Worship

O.T.

- Cain and Abel
- O.T. Temple and its Service
- Nadab and Abihu

N.T.

- Woman at the Well – John 4
- Jesus Confronting the Pharisaical System
- Paul - Colossae and Corinth Errors in Corporate Worship



The basic acts of worship [corporate] we perform because they are clearly commanded in Scripture [*Regulative Principle*]. The ways and means of doing them we try to order according to scriptural principle.

- *Hughes Oliphant Olds*

There will be, of necessity, some human discretion exercised in these matters.

- *Ligon Duncan*



Praising God in the Psalms

Ps. 7:17/ 9:2/ 21:13/ 22:22f, 25f/ 30:4, 9, 12/ 33:1/
34:1/ 35:18, 28/ 40:3/ 42:5, 11/ 43:4f/ 48:10/
49:18/ 51:15/ 56:4, 10/ 61:8/ 63:3/ 65:1/ 66:2, 8/
67:3, 5/ 69:30, 34/ 71:6, 8, 14, 22/ 74:21/ 76:10/
79:13/ 88:10/ 89:5/ 99:3/ 100:4/ 102:18, 21/
104:33, 35/ 105:45/ 106:1f, 12, 47f/ 107:32/ 109:1,
30/ 111:1, 10/ 112:1/ 113:1, 9/ 115:17f/ 116:19/
117:1f/ 119:164, 171, 175/ 135:1, 3, 21/ 145:1f, 4,
21/ 146:1f, 10/ 147:1, 12, 20/ 148:1ff, 7, 13f/ 149:1,
3, 9/ 150:1ff

