

INTRODUCTION: VOCALIZING AMEN! IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

- A. CHRONIC DISPUTE OVER MANY YEARS**
- B. PASTORAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO MUTUAL LOVE FAILED**
- C. CONVICTIONS, EACH W/ELEMENT OF TRUTH** (necessary response vs. prohibited disruption)
- D. THE MEANS TO TRUTH, RIGHTEOUSNESS & PEACE** (2Tm.3:14-17; see Ps.119:105; Acts 15; see *WCF*:1,10; see 2Cor.2:11; Eph.6:12,17; 1Sam.17:45-47; i.e., “Amen!”)
- E. THE MEANS TO MUTUAL CONSIDERATION, GOOD ORDER & PEACE** (1Cor.14:33,36f; 11:14,16; see *WCF*:1,6)

I. AMEN! IN THE BIBLE

- A. AN ELEMENT OF WORSHIP** (1Cor.14:16; see 1Chr.16:36; Neh.8:6; see *WCF*: 20,1)
- B. TRANSLITERATION OF HEBREW WORD MEANING CERTAINLY TRUE** (Rev.3:14 (Is.65:16); see Dt.27:15f; a responsive profession of faith: cognizance, conviction, craving, commitment; 1Cor.14:16; thereby a witness to others; see Eccl.5:4f)
- C. A RESPONSE OF AFFIRMATION & OWNERSHIP TO WORDS SPOKEN BY ANOTHER**
 - 1. proclamation (Neh.8:6,1f)
 - a. prescriptions (1Kngs.1:36; Neh.5:13; see Num.5:22; Dt.27:15f)
 - b. promises (Num.5:22; Dt.27:15f; 2Cor.1:20; Rev.1:7; 22:20; see 1Cor.11:24f; 2Cor.5:21)
 - 2. prayer (Mt.6:13; 1Cor.14:16; see catechisms: affirm our desire and assurance)
 - 3. praise (doxology (often at end of other things); see “Amen” in classic hymns; 1Chr.16:36; Neh.8:6; Ps.41:13; 72:19; 89:52; 106:48; Rom.1:25; 9:5; 11:36; 16:27; Gal.1:5; Eph.3:21; Phil.4:20; 1Tm.1:17; 6:16; 2Tm.4:18; Heb.13:21; 1Pt.4:11; 5:11; 2Pt.3:18; Jude 1:25; Rev.1:6; 5:11f,14; 7:12 (inclusion); 19:4)
 - 4. blessing (benediction; (Num.6:24-26); Rm.15:33; 16:24; 1C16:24; Gal.6:18; Hb.13:21; Rev.22:21)
 - 5. summary: corporate covenant initiative & response (one speaks & all hearers respond together /1Jn4:19; Hos2:23)
- D. DOUBLING MANIFESTS AN OATH: BOUND TO BELIEVE & DO WHAT YOU AFFIRM** (Num.5:22; Neh.5:13; Ps.41:13; 72:19; 89:52; 106:48; see John 1:51,etc. (Mt.5:18,etc.); see Jer.11:5; Eccl.5:4)
- E. CORPORATE AFFIRMATION INVOLVES MUTUAL COMMITMENT** (Neh.5:13)
- F. NOT MERELY SELF-AFFIRMATION BUT CUE FOR RESPONSE** (Nm.5:22; Dt.27:15f; Rm.1:25, etc.)

II. AMEN! IN CHURCH HISTORY

- A. JUDAISM** (see Num.6:24,25,26 (EOC; Mt.28:19); synagogue, thus apostolic church, 1Cor.14:16; also Islam)
- B. EARLY CHURCH**
 - 1. Justin Martyr (c.100-165 AD): common practice
 - 2. Jerome (c.345-420 AD; after Lord’s Supper): thunder (i.e., after lightning!)
- C. MEDIEVAL CHURCH** (vain repetition: frequent, routine and meaningless; see Mt.6:7)
- D. REFORMATION**
 - 1. regulative principle (*WCF*: 20,1)
 - a. element warranted: clear precept & approved example in Scripture (all above; see Mt.12:34; Rom.10:9,10; *WCF*: 20,1)
 - b. practice set in order: light of nature & Christian prudence (see 1Cor.14:16; see *WCF*: 1,6)
 - 2. occasional, contextual and meaningful
- E. CONTEMPORARY CHURCH**
 - 1. conservative: the unresponsive sound of silence (see Neh.8:6,1f; 1Tm.1:17; see Ezk.37:1f)
 - 2. progressive: the indulgent sound of chaos (1Cor.14:27f,30; 11:21,17f)

CONCLUSION: AMEN! IN THE OSWEGO RPC

- A. SAY “THE AMEN”!** (1Cor.14:16, etc.; note: how much thunder!)
- B. WHEN CUED BY THOSE LEADING IN WORSHIP** (1.C.above; see Num.5:2; Dt.27:15f; Rom.1:25, etc.)
- C. W/PRAYER, PRAISE, PROCLAMATION, SACRAMENT, BLESSING** (1Sm.1:13; 1C.14:16,30,32)
- D. USUALLY AT THE END BUT OCCASIONALLY DURING** (see Dt.27:15f; Neh.8:6; Ps.41:13; Mt.6:13; Rom.1:25; 9:5; 11:36; 15:33; 16:27; 1Tm.1:17; 6:16)
- E. PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN EACH ELEMENT OF WORSHIP, PREPARING TO SAY THE AMEN** (*prayer*, 1Sam.1:13; *preaching* (outline (blanks, notes), references; vigorous nods, oscillations, shakes); *praise*; *sacrament*, *blessing*)
- F. WORK HARD TO UNDERSTAND; TO BE PERSUADED OF; TO DESIRE; AND TO MAKE THE COMMITMENT TO BELIEVE AND DO - WHAT IS SAID BY ANOTHER** (see 1Cor.14:16; Neh.5:13; Rev.22:20,21, etc.; see Eccl.5:4f)
- G. PRAY WITH THANKSGIVING FOR GOD TO SHEPHERD US THROUGH THIS CONTROVERSY INTO PEACE AND GREATER BLESSING** (see Acts 6:1-6&7; 15:1f & 30f)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)