



Oceanside URC—Adult Sunday School

What is *Reformed* Worship?

Handout #1

Rev. Danny Hyde, Pastor

Description of Study

This series of lessons will be a survey of the “big picture” of worship as well as an in-depth look at worship in the Reformed tradition.

Purpose of Study

To answer the question of “why we do what we do in worship” so that...

1. We are empowered to worship more whole-heartedly.
2. We are enabled to teach our children the meaning of worship.
3. We are equipped to dialog about our worship with inquirers.

Contents of Study

Our study will revolve around these seven ideas [not necessarily in this order]...

1. *Reformed* Worship is Biblical
2. *Reformed* Worship is Historical
3. *Reformed* Worship is Covenantal
4. *Reformed* Worship is Evangelical
5. *Reformed* Worship is Liturgical
6. *Reformed* Worship is Reverential
7. *Reformed* Worship is Joyful

Resources for Study

Book of Common Prayer

- The 1662 edition in England: <http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/book-of-common-prayer.aspx>
- The 1928 in the U.S.: http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/1928/BCP_1928.htm

Directory for the Publick Worship of God (1645)

- Online at www.reformed.org

W. Robert Godfrey, *Pleasing God in our Worship*, (Crossway, 1999).

- Free online: http://www.the-highway.com/worship_Godfrey.html

D. G. Hart and John R. Muether, *With Reverence and Awe: Returning to the Basics of Reformed Worship* (Phillipsburg: P&R, 2002)

Michael Horton, *A Better Way: Rediscovering the Drama of God-Centered Worship* (Baker, 2002).

Daniel R. Hyde, *What to Expect in Reformed Worship: A Visitor's Guide* (Wipf & Stock, 2007).

Terry L. Johnson, *Reformed Worship: Worship That Is According to Scripture* (Reformed Academic Press, 2002).

Hughes Oliphant Old, *Worship That Is Reformed According to Scripture* (John Knox Press, 1984).

Bard Thompson, *Liturgies of the Western Church* (Fortress Press, 1980).

- Google eBook is \$9.99 and used copies are around \$5.



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The Importance of Worship

...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ...But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:5, 9)

The Purpose of Our Redemption

Gen. 4:26—

Ex. 3:12, 18, 4:23, 5:1, 3—

Ex. 19:5–6

John 4:23—

Eph. 1:6; cf. vv. 12, 14—

1 Peter 2:5—

1 Peter 2:9—

The Purpose of Our Creation

Gen. 1:26–28—

Gen. 2:7–8, 15–17—

Matt. 22:34–40—

*“For thou hast made us for thyself and restless is our heart until it comes to rest in thee.”
(Augustine, *The Confessions*, 1.1)*

*“What is the chief end of man? Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.
(Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 1)*

“I have also no difficulty in conceding to you that there is nothing more perilous to our salvation than a preposterous and perverse worship of God. The primary rudiments by which we are wont to train to piety those whom we wish to gain as disciples to Christ are these; viz., not to frame any new worship of God for themselves at random, and after their own pleasure, but to know that the only legitimate worship is that which He himself approved from the beginning. (John Calvin, “Reply to Cardinal Sadoletto”)

“If it be inquired then, by what things chiefly the Christian religion has a standing existence amongst us and maintains its truth, it will be found that the following two not only occupy the principle place, but comprehend under them all the other parts, and consequently the whole substance of Christianity, viz., a knowledge, first, of the mode in which God is duly worshipped; and, secondly, of the source from which salvation is to be obtained. (John Calvin, “The Necessity of Reforming the Church”)

Our Participation in this Purpose

All of our life: Rom. 12:1–2

Focused in corporate worship: Ex. 12:16; Lev. 23; Heb. 12:18–29

*“Worship is the gift of participating through the Spirit in the incarnate Son’s communion with the Father.” (James B. Torrance, *Worship, Community & the Triune God of Grace*)*