

Scripture: 2 Samuel 6
Singing: 265:1-3 – 76:1-4 -- 318:1, 4, 5 – 368:1--5

CoF 32 (1)

Intro: God's charge for His saints: *Do all things decently and in order!*

A. Each local church must flesh out this charge through its appointed rulers

B. Yet Jesus does never His stewards of authority a 'divine right to rule'

1. Jesus rebuked ecclesiastical overreach: Mark 7:7-13; Col. 2:16, 21-23

2. Though each local church will have their own 'liturgy'

a. no part may contradict the will of the Master

b. no part may be made binding or compelling over the conscience

3. All ecclesiastical authority is limited to the 'body of the church'

a. the 'body' is the structure – functioning (trellis)

b. the authority is limited to two areas: *public worship & discipline*

C. How do we determine what **public** worship should like & be included?

1. Two possibilities:

a. allow everything that the Bible does not specifically forbid provided it brings *peace and unity in congregation*

b. only include what our Lord determined and has expressly commanded or exemplified or logically implied in God's Word

2. As Reformed Christians we follow 2nd option: Why?

a. First: because of Scripture's teaching: Ex. 25:40; Deut. 4:15-16; Deut 12:28-32; Lev. 10:1-2; 8-11; 1 Sam. 15:23

b. Second: because of God's unchanging nature: Ex. 34:13-14; Heb. 12:22-29; Rev. 4-5

c. Third: because we may not 'bind anyone's conscience' beyond God's revealed will (Romans 14:5b-12)

Reflect and Act

A. Reflect on the public worship of angels and saints in glory: Is. 6; Rev. 5:11-14

B. Reflect on what would we *lose* by a deeper sense of God's majesty?

C. Reflect on worshipping in *the beauty* of holiness: Ps. 96:8-9; 99:5

Reflections on Worship

It is only when we begin to worship God that we begin to grow. (Coolidge)

In our public worship there should be the power of the supernatural which brings home a sense of God. (Bryan Green)

Awe of God is the primary religious emotion.

Worship is to give God the same place in our hearts and lives as He holds in the universe.

When there is no awe in our worship of God, we fall far short in our worship.

We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with God. (Tozer)

The greatest need of the moment is that lighthearted, superficial religionists be struck down with a vision of God high and lifted up as Isaiah saw. (Tozer)

When I enter thy presence, enable me
To worship Thee with godly fear;
To be awed by thy majesty, greatness, and glory;
To be encouraged and drawn by thy love;
To leave thy presence with a glow like Moses.
(Adapted from *The Valley of Vision*)