**CHRISTIAN WORSHIP - THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE**

Session 12

**Rethinking Worship for the New Millennium**

Lecture 9

Criteria by Which to Sort

1. Are all these too academic for local church applications?

* Some are basic to all liturgical convictions. For example, the 4 parts of worship are generally applicable: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending
* This is a tool box approach.

1. Faith is a language, not an emotional expression or doctrinal statements.

* Faith is a corporate body that speaks a special language
* Example: Armenian (a people without a country) language is the home of Armenians.
* Worship helps people to speak the language of faith which is different from the world:
  + Language of money, time, sexuality, love, etc.
  + Gospel and Culture Network
    - Craig Van Gelder, editor, *Confident Witness – Changing World: Rediscovering the Gospel in North America*
    - Darrell L. Guder, *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*
* If our worship is encultured, we will have nothing to speak to the culture itself.

1. Arts and Worship

* Our church building is generally bare visually
* Argument against, “Religious arts are too strange to the non-believers”: It is not the building that is hospitable. If the people within are hospitable, the arts in our church can be used as a teaching tool

1. Symbols: Cross, Trinity, Holy Spirit, Resurrection, Christian community.
2. Banners
3. Liturgical Colors:

* Purple: Repentance—Lent season
* Pink: Joy (Resurrection)
* Blue: Hope
* White: Victory (Easter)
* Gold: King (Epiphany on January 6; Christ the King)
* Red: Saints and Martyr (Maundy Thursday, Pentecost)
* Black: Death (Good Friday)
* Green: Ordinary days (life of Jesus)

1. Robe

* Hide the minister: it is not the minister who speaks but Christ
* Convey holiness

1. Stole

* A long scarf with symbols and words for the season or occasions

1. Candle with holder
2. Icon

* Idolatry? Worshippers don’t worship the icon but worship God through the Icon. Modern culture is too technical to be in the mystery of God
* It leads the believers into the reality of the presence of Jesus
* Expressionless of Jesus🡪 it shows all expressions
* *Ravenna in Late Antiquity* (Mosaic and monument of stone)
* There are negativities of icon:

1. The danger of idolatry
2. Believers not taught well
3. Bad art
4. Too didactic to be suggestive
5. Music and Art

* The are some basic factors that govern good art, music, and dance
* The biblical basis for art in worship is “Wisdom”; Jesus was not against the Temple. In fact, he worshipped in the Temple
* The problem of video screens used in worship:
  + They are too fast for proper thought
  + They damage the young mind
  + Showing pictures of nature as background is lacking in Christian language; they gravitate towards Unitarianism.
  + It does nothing to deepen our vocabulary of God
* Art then to say something that cannot be said in words
* They are supposed to lift us up to transcendence

1. Choosing of what is appropriate

Worship design requires both theological and monodic trainings. Criteria to be used to select music for worship (not taste):

1. Appropriate to display God?

* E.g. it is not appropriate to display a loving God with a song of hate, (Onward Christian Soldiers was deleted from some hymnals.)

1. Is it appropriately written?

* Rhythmic and melodic 🡪 Bach
* Organ can make all kinds of instrument sound
* Guitar couldn’t conjure up the sense of majesty

1. Is the music and the lyric coherent?

* “Majesty”: all reverence, royalty, glory, splendor, grandeur, etc.
* The music of the song “Majesty” does not match with the lyric.
* The song cannot help the children to experience or express the sense of majesty, they would not be able to understand what it really means.

1. Does the temple match the lyric or what you do?
2. Does it appropriately form character of a follower of Christ?

* Heart = will (First Testament: kidney; Second Testament: bowel)

1. Is it appropriate for the development of a sense of church catholic?

* “*Sanctus*” would be able to do this.

1. Is it appropriate for building community in this place?

* Let the children teach us songs.
* Do not left people with visual disability by using overhead alone.
* Explain words and symbols used to newcomer.

1. Is the music appropriately taught to the people?

* 2 weeks of preparation for a new song.
* Lyrics explained to the newcomers.

1. Does the worship service mobilize the gifts of the people in the plan?

* Gifts of music, reading, etc.

1. Is it appropriately showing the splendor of the Kingdom of God in all his beauty, truth, and goodness?

* All of these must be shown in balance and harmony