**CHRISTIAN WORSHIP - THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE**

Session 13

**Rethinking Worship for the New Millennium**

Lecture 10

“Choosing of what is appropriate” *continued*

Worship to Form a Missional Community

1. Is it appropriate to create a missional community?

* Members care for others and the world

1. Is it appropriate in reflecting the level of pains of the world and those who are worshipping with us? That no one is left out.
2. Is it appropriate for the time of the church year?

* Good Friday: O Sacred Head Wounded

1. Is what we are doing appropriate for the place?
2. Is the text appropriate for the day? What fits, instead of basing on taste and style?
3. Is it appropriate to evoke the desire to come back to worship next week?

* *Sundays and Seasons*, Augsburg Fortress
* <https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781506449685/Sundays-and-Seasons-Preaching-Year-A-2020>

1. Church as The Alternative Parallel Society

* Worship is to make people who care for others and the world
* Christians are to be in the world but not of the world
* “The Church community is an alternative society”
* *Life on the Vine* by Philip Kenneson, IVP, 1999.

This book takes upon itself to critically reflect American society and its relationship to the difficulty of cultivating the fruits of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. In each of the fruits of the Spirit -love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control, Kenneson shows how bearing each fruit will not be without difficulty, as each fruit has something that is trying to choke it out in American culture.

The book as great as it is, has some short comings. Kenneson doesn't really like the term "self-control," and awkwardly struggles to define it and look for a better word in the English language. He prefers to call the last of Paul's fruits of the Spirit "continence" instead of "self-control." Kenneson finds the word "self" a little too bitter for his tasting, thinking it takes away from the work of Christ in some fashion.

However, I think the word "self-control" works just fine if the Christian realizes that "you are not your own." So, if we say "self-control" as a Christian, we simply must understand that it's not that we control ourselves, but rather, we yield control of ourselves over to Christ. Kenneson's alternative translation of "continence" in place of "self-control" I don't believe is warranted, and is too close of a synonym to hardly be considered better replacement.

* Worship equip the believers to be alternative community by:
  + Sing our own songs
  + Speak our own language
  + Develop our own habits

1. Visioning for why our difference matters

* If a group want to be different from the surrounding dominant culture (TV, consumerism, capitalism, democracy, liberalism, and individualism, etc.)
* The dominant culture does not care about character formation
* Christians are free because their identity is with God
* Worship is thus envisioning, displaying God, educating the believers the Kingdom language, to form by means of the biblical narratives
* Priesthood of all believers.
* Training and nurturing Faith
* “I am going to church” is bad theology. Instead, I am going to the place I can worship God together with fellow Christians [as a church].
* Through worship, on generation passes its faith to the next

1. Worship is both a discipline and a delight