

REFORMED WORSHIP

Remember the G's: Worship is for God's glory with gratitude for grace.

All Christian Worship

is to be focused on (Triune) God
is centered in Christ event of salvation that keeps happening today as discerned through Bible
is inherently communal in nature as part of the communion of saints
promotes gathered community's praise and prayer and hearing and ethical extension of worship in all of life

Distinctive Marks of Reformed Worship:

Glorifies God
Is in Christ, through Christ, with Christ
In unity with the Holy Spirit
Is centered in the Word (scripture, Christ, human experiences of living Word)
Is accommodating to humans as God is in Christ to us
Sees worship as primary purpose of human life
Sets worship as the pattern for Christian life lived under sovereignty of God now in part on the Way to the fullness of God's sovereign rule at the end when all will worship in glory of God's shalom
Is communal in its orientation, not primarily individualistic
Considers its connection to people of God of all times and places (communion of saints)
Fosters coherence between worship and ethics as seeks to live life as worship to God for the promotion of common good, not just of gathered community, but for people of all places
Promotes knowledge of God through knowledge of Word
Is flexible, taking many forms as it is always being reformed by the Spirit in order to draw all people into the Way of Christ to the glory of God
Eschews anything that draws primary focus away from God and Word (the reason for a plain aesthetic in architecture)

Distinctive Elements of Reformed Worship:

Corporate confession of sin
Prayer for illumination
Music important (Calvin's singing of psalms)

Strands of influence on North American Reformed Worship Traditions:

Calvin
Martin Bucer's Strasbourg liturgy
Zwinglian-influenced Genevan worship
John Knox and Scottish worship
Puritan worship (Westminster)
Great Awakenings and Revivalism
Culture/Ethos of various times and places

Teresa Lockhart Stricklen