

STAND 2012 Workshop – Letting the Gospel Shape our Gathered Worship

Facilitator: William Chong, Howick Baptist Church

What does the Bible teach us regarding:

a) What to do during gathered worship (**components**)?

Prescribed:

- Meet regularly (Heb. 10:24)
- Orderly, edifying worship (1 Cor. 14:26-33)
- Right attitudes (Heb. 12:28-29, John 4:24)
- Sing the Word (Col. 3:15-17, Eph. 4:15-16)
- Bible reading (1 Tim. 4:13a)
- Pray (1 Tim. 2)
- Preach the Word (2 Tim. 4:2)
- Lord's table (Mt. 26:17-29, Lk. 24:28-30, 1 Cor 11:20-22)

Described:

- Meet on Sundays (Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16)
- Meet for teaching, fellowship, prayer, meals (Acts 2:42)

Inferred:

- Creeds, affirmations (e.g. "creed" in 1 Tim 3:16)
- Rubrics, explanations between (inferred from 1 Cor 14:26-33)
- Testimonies, ministry reports (e.g. Epistles)
- Ordinations, commissionings (Acts 13)
- Church discipline (Mt. 18)
- Fasting

b) How to structure our gathered worship (**containers**)?

STAND 2012 Workshop – Letting the Gospel Shape our Gathered Worship

Facilitator: William Chong, Howick Baptist Church

What does the Bible teach us regarding:

a) What to do during gathered worship (**components**)?

Prescribed:

- Meet regularly (Heb. 10:24)
- Orderly, edifying worship (1 Cor. 14:26-33)
- Right attitudes (Heb. 12:28-29, John 4:24)
- Sing the Word (Col. 3:15-17, Eph. 4:15-16)
- Bible reading (1 Tim. 4:13a)
- Pray (1 Tim. 2)
- Preach the Word (2 Tim. 4:2)
- Lord's table (Mt. 26:17-29, Lk. 24:28-30, 1 Cor 11:20-22)

Described:

- Meet on Sundays (Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 16)
- Meet for teaching, fellowship, prayer, meals (Acts 2:42)

Inferred:

- Creeds, affirmations (e.g. "creed" in 1 Tim 3:16)
- Rubrics, explanations between (inferred from 1 Cor 14:26-33)
- Testimonies, ministry reports (e.g. Epistles)
- Ordinations, commissionings (Acts 13)
- Church discipline (Mt. 18)
- Fasting

b) How to structure our gathered worship (**containers**)?

STAND 2012 Workshop – Letting the Gospel Shape our Gathered Worship

Facilitator: William Chong, Howick Baptist Church

A. What should we shape our gathered worship by?

The gospel and its implications.

“If you wish to deepen the worship of the people of God, above all deepen their grasp of his ineffable majesty in his person and in all his works.”

*– DA Carson, *Worship by the Book*.*

B. Why should we do this?

1. Biblical precedent.
2. Historical precedent.
3. To proclaim the gospel more consistently.
4. To improve quality of worship.

C. How can we use the gospel and its implications to guide the shape of our church meetings?

1. Adoration
2. Confession, Repentance
3. Assurance in Christ
4. Thanksgiving

STAND 2012 Workshop – Letting the Gospel Shape our Gathered Worship

Facilitator: William Chong, Howick Baptist Church

5. Intercession/Petition

6. Instruction

7. Communion, Fellowship

8. Charge, Blessing

Questions for reflection:

“How am I preaching/rehearsing the gospel to myself every day?”

“How am I growing in my appreciation for different aspects of gospel worship?”

“How can I learn from the way Christians before me have gathered to worship?”

“How might I practice humility and a peaceable spirit in encouraging a deeper appreciation for gospel-shaped worship?”

“What do the gathered worship patterns at my church communicate about what we believe?”

Further reading:

- Bob Kauffman. *Worship Matters*. (Crossway, 2008).
- Bryan Chappell, *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape our Practice*. (Baker Academic, 2009).
- CJ Mahaney. *Living the Cross Centered Life*. (Multnomah, 2006).
- DA Carson, Timothy Keller, Mark Ashton, Kent Hughes. *Worship By the Book*. (Zondervan, 2002).
- David Peterson, *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. (IVP, 1992).
- Harold Best. *Unceasing Worship*. (IVP, 2003).
- Vaughan Roberts. *True Worship*. (Authentic Lifestyle, 2002).
- Sally McCall, Rosalie Milne (eds). *Church Musician's Handbook*. (Matthias Media, 1999).

STAND 2012 Workshop – Letting the Gospel Shape our Gathered Worship

Facilitator: William Chong, Howick Baptist Church

Letting the Gospel Shape our Worship

As long as its gospel purpose is fulfilled, each aspect of a Christ-centered liturgy can be expressed in a variety of ways.

Indicatives: the gospel of first importance (1 Cor 15:3 onwards)

Imperatives: ways we could worship in response

Aspects of Gospel-Shaped Worship (Containers)	Ways to Express each Aspect (Components)
1. Adoration (we recognise God's character, greatness and goodness)	Call to Worship (from Scripture or extemporised) Hymn/Song of Praise (Congregational or item) <i>Gloria</i> (Lt: Glory), <i>Sanctus</i> (Lt: Holy), Doxology Responsive Reading Affirmation of Faith Creed Any combination of the above
2. Confession/Repentance (we acknowledge our character, sin and need for grace)	Pastoral Prayer Congregational Confession (In Unison, Responsive, Silent) Responsive Reading Scripture Reading Hymn/Song of Confession (Congregational or Item) <i>Kyrie Eleison</i> Collect Any combination of the above
3. Assurance in Christ (we affirm God's provision of grace)	Scripture Reading Responsive Reading Hymn/Song of Assurance (Congregational or Item) <i>Sursum Corda</i> (Lt. Lift up your hearts) Fellowship Exchange (e.g. greeting one another with expression of Christ's love and peace) Any combination of the above
4. Thanksgiving (we express our devotion and thanks for God's grace)	Regular Offering Special Collection Prayer of Thanksgiving Hymn, Song, Psalm of Thanksgiving Doxology <i>Gloria Patri</i> (Lt: Glory be to the Father) Personal Testimony of Praise Scripture Reading Any combination of the above
5. Petition/Intercession (we express desire for help in living for God)	Pastoral Prayer Elder-led Prayer Silent Personal Prayer Intercessory Prayers for and from Congregants (e.g. prepared prayers, prayer requests)

STAND 2012 Workshop – Letting the Gospel Shape our Gathered Worship

Facilitator: William Chong, Howick Baptist Church

	Hymn/Song of Petition <i>Kyrie Eleison</i> Any combination of the above
6. Instruction (we acquire the knowledge to grow in grace)	Scripture Readings (pastoral, lay leader, unison, antiphonal, responsive, etc.) Mission, Ministry or Personal Testimony Creeds and Affirmations Baptisms Ordaining or Commissioning Church Discipline Hymn/Song of Preparation
7. Communion/Fellowship (we commune with God and his people)	Intercessions Testimonies Fellowship Expressions and Announcements Mercy/Alms Collections Diaconal Reports <i>Sanctus</i> <i>Gloria Patri</i> <i>Agnus Dei</i> Creed Recitations Communion options: - congregation seated and served - congregation processing - congregation partaking as a meal
8. Charge/Blessing (we resolve to live for and in the light of God's grace)	Scripture Reading Ordaining or Commissioning Historic or Contemporary Writing Extemporised from Pastor <i>Benedictus</i> (Lt. Blessed be) <i>Gloria Patri</i> <i>Nunc Dimittis</i> (Lt: Now you are dismissing...) Choral Benediction Final Hymn/Song with appropriate message Exchanges of Fellowship (dismissing one another with expressions of Christ's love and peace) Any combination of the above

(adapted from Bryan Chappell's *Christ-Centered Worship*, 148)