

Chapter 21 Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day

I. The Obligation of Worship

II. The Rule of Worship

III. The Object of Worship

IV. The Content of (Ordinary) Worship

V. The Place of Worship

VI. The Day of Worship

I. The Obligation of Worship

A. The light of nature shows

1. That there is a God,
2. Who has lordship and sovereignty over all
3. Is good
4. And does good unto all

B. And is therefore

1. To be
 - a. Feared
 - b. Loved
 - c. Praised
 - d. Called upon
 - e. Trusted in
 - f. Served,
2. With
 - a. All the heart
 - b. All the soul
 - c. All the might

Priority
What/how?
Inward/outward?

II. The Rule of Worship

A. But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God

1. Is instituted by Himself
2. And so limited by His own revealed will

B. He may not be worshipped according to

1. The imaginations and devices of men
2. Or the suggestions of Satan
3. Under any visible representation
4. Or any other way not prescribed in the holy Scripture

2 targets
Regulative principle
Text?
2 elements

Wherein our care hath been to hold forth such things as are of divine institution in every ordinance; and other things we have endeavored to set forth according to the rules of Christian prudence, agreeable to the general rules of the word of God (Directory of Public Worship)

III. The Object of Worship

A. Religious worship is to be given to

1. God the Father
2. God the Son
3. God the Holy Ghost
4. And to Him alone

B. Religious Worship is not to be given to

1. Angels
2. Saints
3. Or any other creature

C. And since the fall

1. Not without a Mediator
2. Nor in the mediation of any other but of Christ alone

IV. The Content of (Ordinary) Worship

A. Prayer (with thanksgiving)

1. The requirement of prayer: Required of all men
2. The mediator of prayer: In the name of the Son
3. The helper of prayer: By the help of His Spirit,
4. The guide of prayer: According to His will
5. The spirit of prayer: With
 - a. Understanding
 - b. Reverence
 - c. Humility
 - d. Fervency
 - e. Faith
 - f. Love
 - g. Perseverance
 - h. And, if vocal, in a known tongue

6. The substance of prayer

a. For

i. Things lawful

ii. All sorts of men living, or that shall live hereafter

b. Not for

i. The dead

ii. Not for those of whom it may be known that they have sinned the sin unto death

B. The reading of the Scriptures

1. With godly fear

C. Preaching

1. The sound preaching

2. The hearing of the Word

a. Conscionable hearing

b. In obedience unto God

c. With

i. Understanding

ii. Faith

iii. Reverence

D. Singing of psalms

1. With grace in the heart

E. The Sacraments (instituted by Christ)

1. Due administration

2. Worthy receiving of the sacraments instituted by Christ

F. Non-ordinary (Special occasion) worship

1. Special time: In their several times and season

2. Special manner: To be used in an holy and religious manner

3. Special activities:

a. Religious oaths

Prohibition or optional/Must not or need not?

1 John 5:16

PCUSA omission (LC 183)

- b. Vows
- c. Solemn fastings
- d. Thanksgivings

V. The Place of Worship

A. No special place (under the Gospel): Worship is not tied to or made more acceptable by

- 1. Any place in which it is performed
- 2. Or towards which it is directed

B. Every place: God is to be worshipped everywhere (in spirit and in truth)

- 1. In private families daily
- 2. In secret, each one by himself

3. More solemnly in the public assemblies

- a. Which are not carelessly or wilfully to be neglected, or forsaken
- b. When God, by His Word or providence, calls thereunto

VI. The Day of Worship

Comparisons?

A. The law of nature

- 1. In general
- 2. A due proportion of time be set apart for the worship of God

B. The law of God

- 1. **Where:** In His Word
- 2. **How:** By a positive, moral, and perpetual commandment
- 3. **Who:** Binding all men in all ages
- 4. **What:** He has particularly appointed one day in seven
 - a. For a Sabbath
 - b. To be kept holy unto him
- 5. **When**
 - a. From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, was the last day of the week
 - b. From the resurrection of Christ, was changed into the first day of the week, which, in Scripture, is called the Lord's Day

c. And is to be continued to the end of the world, as the Christian Sabbath.

C. This Sabbath is to be kept holy unto the Lord

1. Prepare
 - a. After a due preparing of their hearts
 - b. And ordering of their common affairs beforehand,
2. Rest
 - a. An holy rest all the day
 - b. From their own works, words, and thoughts
 - c. About their worldly employments and recreations,
3. Exercise
 - a. Are taken up the whole time
 - b. In the public and private exercises of His worship
 - c. And in the duties of necessity and mercy.

Why?
Creation
Redemption
Heaven
Worship
Rest

“The Lord’s Day ought rather to be a time of restful reflection on our worldly concerns coram deo” (R