

Day 1: Worshiping and “Imaging” the Triune God

Outline

1. Personal introduction
 - a. Continuously been involved in church music since I was three
 - i. Messianic congregation
 - ii. Mom sang hymns to us
 - iii. conservative Baptist church
 - iv. Alliance church, more “contemporary” worship
 - v. Adulthood: Involved in “contemporary” forms of worship
 - b. Development of my thought
 - i. Settled in middle- to low-church Reformed context; worship director
 - ii. Discovery of Anglican liturgy at university
 - iii. Christian university, seminary, graduate school
 - iv. Studied Lamentations; incorporated lament into liturgy
 - v. Father-in-law, Joe: songwriter, pastor, mentor
 - vi. Worship in intercultural contexts: South Africa, Western Europe, Eastern Europe
 - vii. My current writing: Exploring the function of worship within story
2. Questions to start out
 - a. Is God a narcissist to demand worship from human beings?
 - b. Shouldn't we be worshiping, i.e., bringing God glory, all the time by honoring him in our lives?
 - c. Are human beings the only beings that can worship?
 - d. Can I worship by myself?
 - e. Is “worship” the same thing as “music”?
 - f. What does worship do for us?
 - g. What does worship do for God?
 - h. Can worship be evangelistic?
3. Goals for the Seminar
 - a. To honor the Triune God;
 - b. To allow worship to perform its transforming work in us as individuals and as a body;
 - c. To focus our church community on the object of worship, the purposes of worship, and the means of worship through the lenses of Scripture and tradition;
 - d. To help us think through recent and proposed changes in our worship service, including (but not limited to):
 - i. Increasing use of two (or more) languages in the service
 - ii. Introduction of a screen
 - iii. Introduction of a sound system
 - iv. Different venue/sanctuary (proposed)
4. Question: Is God a narcissist to demand worship from human beings? Answer: the Triune, other-oriented God
 - a. Other-orientation

- i. Does God need his ego stroked all the time? Why does he want worship?
 - ii. The persons of the Trinity receive satisfaction as they love and enjoy one another, and see the other persons glorified.
 - b. The Father and the Son give each other glory
 - i. John 1:1
 - ii. Rom 1:3–4
 - iii. Numerous passages from John!
 - iv. Philippians 2:5–11
 - v. Daniel 7
 - c. The Father and the Spirit validate the Son – Matt 3:16–17
 - d. Holy Spirit sent (proceeds) from the Father and the Son
 - i. John 15:26–27; 16:12–15
 - ii. Acts 1:8; 2
 - e. The Father vindicates those who glorify the Son and the Spirit — Luke 12:8–10
 - f. The Spirit and the Son intercede before the Father
 - i. Romans 8:26–27 Spirit intercedes for us, within us and on the earth
 - ii. Rom 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 8:1 Christ Jesus intercedes for us at the Father’s right hand
 - g. Conclusion: The persons of the Trinity are other-oriented, and they work together for us
- 5. Other questions:
 - a. Shouldn’t we be worshiping, i.e., bringing God glory, all the time by honoring him in our lives?
 - b. Are human beings the only beings that can worship?
- 6. Consider: Humanity as the active, living images of God
 - a. “What is the chief purpose of human being?” (WCF 1:1) “To glorify God and to enjoy him forever.” Piper: “To glorify God *by* enjoying him forever!”
 - i. God is fully satisfied in relation with himself. Creation stems from a desire on the part of each person of the Trinity to see other free beings recognizing the glory of *and* enjoying the other persons of the Trinity. When we glorify the Father, the Son and the Spirit say, “YES!” When we revel in and praise the Spirit, the Father and the Son do a quiet fist bump.
 - ii. Worship is one of the most important ways that we freely enjoy and glorify God—we glorify him by enjoying him!
 - b. Image of God in the ANE – YHWH’s cult statues?
 - i. Creation is a temple
 - ii. Garden is the holy of holies
 - iii. Human being are the cult images, given life by the God (incidentally: why images are prohibited in the worship of YHWH—humans are the living images!)
 - iv. Images harm themselves by declaring that they will only “image” themselves.
 - c. Cultural mandate (Gen 1:26–28)
 - i. Fill the earth – make more images!
 - ii. Subdue it – cultivate, and care for the other beings

- iii. Rule over them – Project/image God’s loving, caring authority over the creation, so that all give him glory! (Psalm 19; Psalm 8; Gen 1; Rom 1:18ff; Rom 8:18–23)
 - d. Answer
 - i. Yes, there are many different ways that human beings give glory to God, and we should be doing so all the time!
 - ii. But, God himself gives us an example as Creator
 - 1. Six days of work
 - 2. One day to “rest” and enjoy his creation
 - iii. As his images, we are commanded to do likewise
 - 1. Six days of “subduing the earth” and “filling it”
 - 2. One day and special days to “rest” and enjoy God in a special way
 - iv. This is not a “sacred vs. secular” dichotomy, as if only Sunday activities belong to God.
 - v. This is not a “sinful vs. upright” dichotomy, as if we only need to worship God because we are sinners.
 - 1. The Sabbath is given to Adam and Eve before they sin!
 - 2. They walk with God and enjoy him, and he enjoys them.
 - 3. Granted, worship does take on a different character once sin enters the world.
 - vi. Rather, this is a “holy vs. profane” distinction; we glorify God in everything, but some activities are not special for holy time.
 - 1. Hard work – Exod 20:8–11
 - 2. Marital sex; reproductive fluids – Exod 19:14–15; Lev 15
 - 3. Using the bathroom – Deut 23:12–14
 - e. Can other beings worship? Yes and no...
 - i. The creation declares God’s glory all the time (Psalm 19:1–6; Isa 55:12–13)
 - ii. When as images of God fulfill our purposes (as Jesus did perfectly), then the whole creation will rejoice and be able to stop groaning in travail (Rom 8:18–23)
 - iii. But, no other beings have the moral choice to glorify God or not to glorify God, so their “worship” is of a different kind.
7. How does worship affect our lives?
- a. We become like what we worship! (Deut 4:26–28; Isa 44:9–20; Rom 1:18–25; etc.) Worship re-centers our devotion on the God whose image we reflect.
 - b. Acknowledging our sin and receiving forgiveness
 - c. Enjoying God
 - i. In the present, through the Holy Spirit
 - ii. In the past, reflecting on what the Father has done (scripture and church history)
 - iii. In the future, hope of resurrection through Christ
 - d. Empowered and en-ergized by God (for good works)
 - e. Enjoying other images of God—fellowship! (Present, and past through the words of mothers and fathers in the faith)

Scriptures Read Aloud:

John 1:1
Romans 1:3–4
Philippians 2:5–11
Matthew 3:16–17
John 15:26–27; 16:12–15
Acts 1:8
Luke 12:8–10
Romans 8:26–27
Romans 8:34
Hebrews 7:25; 8:1
Genesis 1:26–28
Exodus 20:8–11
Exodus 19:14–15
Deuteronomy 23:12–14
Psalms 19:1–6
Isaiah 55:12–13
Romans 8:18–23
Deuteronomy 4:26–28
Romans 1:18–25

Jono 1:1
Romiečiams 1:3–4
Filipiečiams 2:5–11
Mato 3:16–17
Jono 15:26–27; 16:12–15
Apaš. Darb. 1:8
Luke 12:8–10
Romiečiams 8:26–27
Romiečiams 8:34
Hebrajams 7:25; 8:1
Pradžios 1:26–28
Išėjimo 20:8–11
Išėjimo 19:14–15
Pakart. Įstat. 23:12–14
Ps. 19:1–6
Izijažo 55:12–13
Romiečiams 8:18–23
Pakart. Įstat. 4:26–28
Romiečiams 1:18–25