

Declare His Glory

Lecture 3

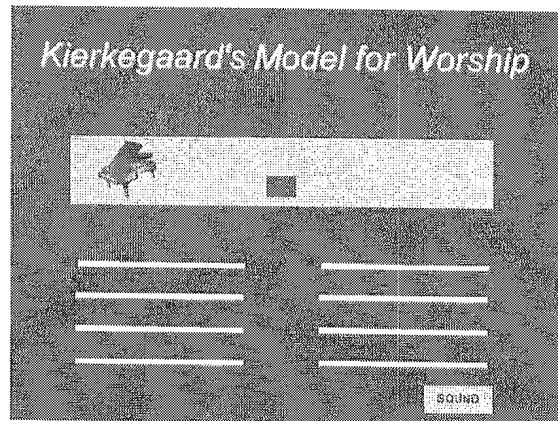
Worship is the adoring relational response of the total person to the revelation of God in praise, sacrifice and service.

How is worship like a theatrical drama?

Where are the actors? The prompters?
The audience?

Is this a biblical model?

Why or why not?



The manner in which we worship as a church:

Scripture reading (1 Timothy 4:13)

Prayer (1 Timothy 2:1-8)

Preaching (1 Corinthians 1 & 2; 1 Thessalonians 2; 2 Timothy 4)

Giving (1 Timothy 6:3-10; Malachi 3:8-12; 2 Corinthians 9; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

Ordinances: (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 1 Corinthians 11)

Worship is the adoring relational response of the total person to the revelation of God in praise, sacrifice and service.

1. **Relational:** The foundation of worship is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Therefore, to be a true worshipper, a person must firstly be saved; and secondly, must be in a right relationship with God.

Implications:

- A. The first requirement in improving our worship is to improve our hearts. Changing the order of service is nothing more than a gimmick if we do not first address the condition of our relationship to God.
- B. Worship cannot be entered into lightly. If we expect people to be in a right relationship with God at the beginning of the worship service, we must provide some means for heart preparation before the service begins.
- C. Worship is the cornerstone ministry of the church. Evangelism is a means to make true worshippers. Education is a means to enhance our understanding of God's revelation so that we may respond in worship on a deeper level. If our people are not meeting with God, we are failing in our most critical mission. If our people **are** meeting with God, we can be sure that lives **will** be transformed.

2. **Revelation:** We love Him because He first loved us; we worship Him because He has first made Himself known.

Implications:

- A. A worship service is a God-initiated dialogue. Our conversation with the Almighty should follow a pattern of revelation and response.
- B. Revelation involves much more than the sermon. Many churches isolate the response from the revelation in their order of service. The congregation responds with singing and an offering before they receive the revelation by means of Scripture reading and a sermon. Consequently, their services fit a pattern of two monologues rather than a

dialogue.

For example, some churches receive the offering after the announcements. If the offering is a response, what is there of revelatory value in the announcements?

- C. The Worship Renewal Movement which has affected some churches fails to adequately account for the necessity of revelation in worship. Twenty-five or thirty minutes of uninterrupted singing may seem more worshipful, but when the revelation of God is neglected, it is at best an emotional high and at worst a New Age corruption! Worship is **NOT** a **performance** for God (this is Kierkegaard's popular model). It is an intimate conversation with God. Therefore, our response must find its origin in the revelation of God.

3. **Response:** Praise, sacrifice (surrender), and service are appropriate responses to the revelation of God.

Implications:

- A. The focus of worship is God, not us. The true measure of a worship service, therefore, is not 'What did I get out of it'; it is 'What did God get out of it'.
- B. Genuine worship does not come naturally. We are innately idolaters -- it would probably horrify us to know how much of our worship is actually self-centred. If we want people to worship in "Spirit and Truth", we must instruct them in the true nature and correct practice of worship; and we must structure our services in such a way as to facilitate worship for all -- regardless of the varying levels of spiritual maturity.
- C. We must understand which vehicles of expression best suit 'revelation', and which best suit 'response'.

Revelation

Scripture reading
Sermon
Special items
Choir
Skits
Testimonies
Communion
Baptism
Hymns
Meditation

Response

Offering
Prayer
Special items
Choir
Skits
Testimonies
Communion
Baptism
Hymns
Invitation