

Liturgy

- I. Liturgy
 - a. Liturgy is the order of our worship
 - b. Should we have liturgy?
 - c. 1 Corinthians 14:26-40
 - d. Liturgy is a guide for our public worship, personal worship, and family worship but is not something by which we are bound
- II. Regulative Principle vs. Normative Principle
 - a. How do we know how to organize our worship?
 - i. Regulative Principle is the principle that we should worship how God has commanded in scripture
 - ii. Normative Principle states that anything not forbidden in scripture is acceptable for worship
 - b. Both views can be taken to extremes, but we should be cautious of the extremes
 - i. God has laid out proper elements of our worship in scripture, yet He has not given us a prescriptive order in which to organize them
 - ii. There is freedom in our liturgy, but that freedom should not be abused and taken as an opportunity to do whatever we want
 - c. “But as in external discipline and ceremonies, he has not been pleased to prescribe every particular that we ought to observe (he foresaw that this depended on the nature of the times, and that one form would not suit all ages), in them we must have recourse to the general rules which he has given, employing them to test whatever the necessity of the church may require to be enjoined for order and decency. Lastly, as he has not delivered any express command, because things of this nature are not necessary to salvation, and, for the edification of the church, should be accommodated to the varying circumstances of each age and nation. It will be proper, as the interest of the church may require, to change and abrogate the old, as well as to introduce new forms. I confess, indeed, that we are not to innovate rashly or incessantly, or for trivial causes. Charity is the best judge of what tends to hurt or to edify: if we allow her to be guide, all things will be safe.”¹
 - d. We should consider the different kinds of people who will be in our services
 - e. If there are many different styles of worship that are preferred, what should we do?

¹ Calvin, John, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 2008), Book 4, Chapter 10, Paragraph 30.

III. Different forms of worship through history

a. Acts 2:42-47

- i. Apostles' teaching
- ii. Fellowship
- iii. Breaking of Bread
- iv. Prayers

b. Justin Martyr (2nd Century)

- i. And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability,² and the people assent, saying Amen; and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given, and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons. And they who are well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who succours the orphans and widows, and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds, and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need. But Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead. For He was crucified on the day before that of Saturn (Saturday); and on the day after that of Saturn, which is the day of the Sun, having appeared to His apostles and disciples, He taught them these things, which we have submitted to you also for your consideration.²

c. Early Church Worship Liturgy

- i. Liturgy of the Word
- ii. Liturgy of the Eucharist

² Justin Martyr, "The First Apology of Justin," in *The Apostolic Fathers with Justin Martyr and Irenaeus*, ed. Alexander Roberts, James Donaldson, and A. Cleveland Coxe, vol. 1, *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Company, 1885), 186.

IV. Reformation and Liturgy

- a. One of the major parts of the Reformation was the focus on recovering “pure” worship and being connected to the early church
 - i. The Reformers did not intend to start their own thing
 - ii. They were heavily connected to the church fathers in everything they did
- b. <https://reformationworship.com/liturgies/>

V. Elements of Worship

- a. Call to Worship
 - i. Why is a call to worship important?
 - ii. God always comes to us first and calls us to Himself
 - iii. God sets our worship and teaches us how to worship
 - iv. We do not invite God to come to our presence for we are entering into His presence
 - v. His Spirit leads us into Worship
 - vi. The gathering of the Church is the Body of Christ
 - vii. Psalm 100
- b. Affirmation of Faith
 - i. An affirmation of faith is our proclamation of the fundamental truths of our faith for us to remember what we believe
 - ii. Scripture:
 - 1. Hebrews 2:1
 - 2. Hebrews 4:14-16
 - 3. Colossians 1:15-23
 - 4. 2 Peter 1:12-15
 - iii. Apostle’s and Nicene Creed have been historically used for this purpose
- c. Confession of Sin
 - i. Scripture:
 - 1. 1 John 1:9-10
 - 2. James 5:16-20
 - ii.