

# Liturgy vs. Contemporary Worship

## Preliminary Questions:

1. Is worship manmade or God-directed?
2. If the Bible guides worship, how does it do so? What is true biblical worship? How do we answer this question?
3. Historic (traditional) worship vs. revolutionary worship: on what basis does the church have right to proclaim “new paradigms of worship”? (The “servant of tradition” vs. “charismatic leader” conundrum.)
4. Jeroboam vs. Jerusalem worship: the fetishizing of relevancy (what are the modern “gods” we syncretize with when we say such things as... (The misuse of I Corinthians 9: 20)
  - “We have different service styles to reach different groups. We have one to meet YOUR needs.”
  - Or “I need to find a church that fits ME.”
  - “Music is how people relate; therefore we emphasize music.” (What is the nature of music today?)
  - “No one gets into doctrine anymore, so we should minimize it.”
  - The re-defining of language as cultural idiom (and not language)

## What is worship?

1. Is it something we come up with, or something we take part in? (Rev. 4; Luke 2; Isaiah 6)
  - \*\*The biblical case for the creed, the invocation, the kyrie, the angelic songs, etc.)
2. Is it a cerebral, emotional, or will-based thing, or a physically-based reality? (A matter of the mind or something real going on?) (The liturgy of the Scriptural story: death-life)
  - \*\*The case for incense as perfect doorway into liturgy.
3. Historic precedence (Acts 2)
4. Do we do the liturgy, or does the liturgy do us? Do we do the faith, or does the faith do us? (Same question!)
  - \*\*The true meaning behind “formal” worship: we are a religion of forms because Christ is God taking the “form” of a man and using the “forms” of words and grammar to communicate to us.
5. The principle of catholicity: we are not a sect; we join the saints of all saints and all places.
6. The Pharisaical/legalistic canard. Christ was not an antinomian.

## Practical considerations

1. Consumeristic Christianity and Emergent Christianity (the Willow Creek (Hybels) realization); it only works in the short term!
2. If children aren't welcome there, something's wrong. (The case of Phoebe.)
3. The importance of ritual vis a vis true love, something to come back to, something to depend on.
4. Boring? Worship is not a dopamine rush.