

LCC's Position on the Regulative Principle of Worship

The normative principle of worship is the position that anything not expressly forbidden in Scripture may be incorporated into an order of worship.

The regulative principle of worship is the position that only what God has commanded may be incorporated into an order of worship.

LCC holds to the regulative principle of worship, with the following qualifications:

We believe there is liberty regarding the *circumstances* of corporate worship.

Corporate worship is commanded by God, and the purpose coming together in corporate worship is twofold: to receive from and respond to God. First, we receive from God as we turn our attention to him and become freshly acquainted with truths of his greatness revealed in Scripture and his goodness working in our lives. Then, as our minds and hearts are nourished and stirred with affection, we respond to God with praise and worship. Collectively, our praise and worship of God results in the building up of other believers and, as a result, the evangelization of unbelievers who may be in our midst.

The **circumstances** of corporate worship refer to the items that surround corporate worship, such as where to meet, when to meet, using pews or chairs, temperate of the room, and many more.

We believe there is liberty regarding the *mode of the elements* within corporate worship.

In Scripture, God explicitly instructs us to read the Word, pray the Word, preach the Word, sing the Word, and see the Word when we gather to worship corporately. While there is liberty regarding the way in which the elements of corporate worship may be practiced, they must be practiced in a way that emphasizes both the *corporate* aspect and the *worship* aspect of corporate worship.

The mode of the elements refers to the way in which the necessary elements are expressed or delivered. Examples of **mode** include things such as using a pulpit to preach, using PowerPoint as part of a sermon, using instruments as part of singing, using a plate to pass communion, and using microphones.

In summary, we believe there is liberty regarding **circumstances** of corporate worship and **mode of the elements** within corporate worship, as long as the exercise of this liberty **does not diminish or distract from** the main purpose of corporate worship and the main purpose of the elements within corporate worship.

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References:

Some Questions about the Regulative Principle, article by John Frame

On the Regulative Principle of Worship, and elements vs. circumstances, article by Wed Bredenhof