

Worship by the Word

Theology and Philosophy

What is our mission?

We exist to make disciples who glorify God as the grace of the gospel grows deep in God's people and goes wide to all peoples.

- Disciples are fundamentally worshipers of God (Mt. 22:37-40; 28:9, 16-20).
- Participation in corporate worship is a significant way disciples worship God.
- Participation in corporate worship is a significant means of forming disciples.

How do we make disciples/worshippers in our corporate worship services?

- **Regulated by the Word:** The Word does the work (1 Thess. 2:13)! As the body of Christ speaks the Word of God to one another in the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:1-5), the grace of the gospel grows deep in God's people.
 - We will read the Word (1 Tim. 4:13).
 - We will preach the Word (Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 4:2).
 - We will pray the Word (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 2:1, 8; Jas. 5:16).
 - We will sing the Word (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
 - We will see the Word (in Baptism and the Lord's Supper) (Mt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 11:24).
- **Revelation-response rhythm:** God initiates relationship with his people through his revealed Word; God's people should respond to this revelation in worship (cf. Lk. 5:1-11; Isa. 6:1-9).
 - Therefore, we will start our worship with the Word (revelation).
 - Therefore, we will seek to make the communication of the Word (revelation) clear and intelligible to believers and unbelievers (Col. 4:4; 1 Cor. 14:22-25).
 - We are called to worship in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:23), therefore, the appropriate response to the Word (revelation) will include both the head and the heart.
- **Relational Singing:** The Word of Christ will dwell richly in God's people as we sing to one another, (Col. 3:15-17). This specific Word-ministry is a responsibility of the whole body (Eph. 5:19).
 - Therefore, the songs we sing will contain Word-rich lyrics.
 - Therefore, the voice of the congregation will be the primary instrument.
 - Therefore, the songs will be primarily participatory.
 - Therefore, the commitment to build one another up will take precedent over musical preferences.
- **Re-presenting the gospel:** Structures and rhythms form us in addition to the Word; therefore, we will use the following structure in our worship which embodies the gospel in order to grow deep in the gospel:
 - **Glory:** Corporate worship will begin with the glory of God.
 - **Grace:**
 - Guilt: In view of God's glory, we see our guilt and will confess our sins.
 - Gospel: In view of our guilt, we will then hear the gospel.
 - Gratitude: In view of the gospel, we will then respond in gratitude.
 - **Go:** As the grace of the gospel grows deep in us, it will encourage and equip us to go wide with the gospel. Corporate worship will, therefore, end with a sending benediction.
- **Regular gathering as the body of Christ:**
 - We will gather regularly for corporate worship because God uses this regular gathering to build his church (Heb. 10:24-25).
 - We will gather in unity as the body of Christ because we each have a responsibility to build up the body of Christ until we attain to the unity of faith and maturity in Christ (Eph. 4:12-13; Col. 3:14-17).