

Elements in a Local Church Service

What we have learned

A church service ought to reflect a clear understanding of creation theology: 11:2-16.

Head covering matters in worship,

How we dress and behave in our worship ought to reflect this:

A clear understanding of the creation theology

*Woman was made to be a helper suitable for man,
not the other way around, 7-8*

**It is hard to imagine a thought more foreign to
our culture today than this.**

Yet, this in no way implies inferiority, 11, 12

Both man and woman are the glory of another

Gender distinctions are to be maintained and exhibited in
how people dress.

***A church worship service ought to reflect unity in all that is
done; 11:17-34.***

In communion as elsewhere in worship,

*You can't be divided around cultural issues, the "haves" and the
"have nots," 11:22*

You have to figure out a way to between those in the
triclinium and those in the atrium.

Wait for each other, 11:33.

It's not about satisfying my desires; it is about serving one
another.

My desires for the worship service and service in general
may not always be met.

***A church worship service ought to reflect unity in the use
of gifts; 12.***

Your gifts are not for your personal agenda, but for the common
good, 12, cf. 12:7

We come together as one and we worship as one

Paul would be appalled by separate traditional and contemporary worship services.

A church worship service ought to reflect love for one another, not the selfish use of my gifts or perspectives

Gifts exercised without love for Christ and the recipient give the user a zero on the final exam, 1 Cor 13, 13:2, 3

The church must serve each other in love.

Therefore, pursue love and desire gifts that edify, 1 Cor 14, 14:1-20

What we will learn today

A church worship service is about edification

What does the word mean?

It literally means to build houses, temples, towers etc.

Figuratively it means to be strengthened, to be made more like Christ, to grow into maturity

Note how often it is used (See 8:1; 14: 3, 4, 5, 12, 17, 26)

Observe words nearly synonymous 14:3, 31

God wants worship services to be about edification.

If Godly saints are being edified, lost people can come under conviction.

We gather to grow, we scatter to sow.

A church worship service is about strengthening the saints, 14:26

Psalms, singing (14:15)

Teaching (with sustained biblical reflection) 14:6

Revelation, 14:6

We have the completed revelation, the Bible

Tongues and interpretation

Gifts that authenticated an apostolic ministry

A church worship service ought to be orderly, 14:33, 40

With reference to tongues, 14:27

No one can just do as they feel led, there must be order

I feel led to...

With reference to prophecy, 14:29-33

Even prophecy, the gift that edifies all, must be done in order, not according to feeling.

With reference to women, 14:34-36

Does not contradict 11:5

Has reference to husbands and wives praying and prophesying in the local assembly

A wife should not try to upstage her husband in the worship

To do so would be disgraceful, she is not to show him up and shame him

To do so would show not being under his authority

Note 14:33; 40

A church worship service ought to reflect apostolic authority, 14:37

What does this mean? The words of the OT Prophets and NT Apostles are the authoritative words of God to us.

The NT is the Apostolic Record

What about Mark, Luke, Jude, Hebrews?

What the church needs is the expository preaching of the apostolic scriptures

The Courage to be Protestant by David F. Wells

Classic Evangelicals

People who take the word of God seriously and use it to define ministry.

Marketers

Bill Hybels and Rick Warren.

Give them what they want, and squeeze in some Bible along the way.

The consumer is king.

Emergents

They are more about networking and coming together. The Scripture is less definitive and less restrictive than before. They are doctrinal minimalists. Culture and generational habits determine truth and ministry more than the Bible.

Of course, all of this is for the glory of God, 1 Cor 10:31.