

Emmaus Essentials
The London Baptist Confession of 1689
Chapter 22: Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day
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Chapter Outline taken from *ST 535 Baptist Symbolics Chapter Outlines* by Dr. Renihan

Introduction

Must think of this in the context of Christian Liberty
Christian Liberty does not mean that we are free to worship God in any way that we want. It frees us to worship as he has commanded us to worship him.

I. Worship in the Light of General and Special Revelation - Paragraph 1

“The light of nature shews that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all; is just, good and doth good unto all; and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart and all the soul, and with all the might. But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God, is instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshipped according to the imagination and devices of men, nor the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representations, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scriptures.”

(Jeremiah 10:7; Mark 12:33; Deuteronomy 12:32; Exodus 20:4-6)

- A. General Revelation teaches that
 - 1. There is a God
 - a) He is Lord
 - b) He is sovereign
 - c) He is just, good and does good to all
 - 2. Thus he is to be
 - a) Feared
 - b) Loved
 - c) Praised
 - d) Called upon
 - e) Trusted in
 - f) Served
 - 3. With all true devotion
 - a) Heart, soul, and might
 - b) Summary of the first table of the law
- B. But acceptable worship is divinely self-instituted
 - 1. “Acceptable” suggests that there is an unacceptable way
 - 2. Institute - Authoritative beginning
- C. And therefore limited by his own will
- D. He may not be worshipped according to
 - 1. Human imaginations and devices
 - 2. The suggestions of Satan
 - a) Think of the fall
 - b) Satan and demons are active
 - 3. Under any visible representations
 - a) Many Christians stumble at this point
 - b) Roman and Greek worship
 - 4. Or any way not prescribed in the Scriptures.

Support Texts

“Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you.” (Jeremiah 10:7, ESV)

“And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” (Mark 12:33, ESV)

“Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.” (Deuteronomy 12:32, ESV)

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.” (Exodus 20:4–6, ESV)

II. The Object of Worship - Paragraph 2

“Religious worship is to be given to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to him alone; not to angels, saints, or any other creatures; and since the fall, not without a mediator, nor in the mediation of any other but Christ alone.”

(Matthew 4:9, 10; John 6:23; Matthew 28:19; Romans 1:25; Colossians 2:18; Revelation 19:10; John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5)

- A. The Triune God alone is the object of worship
 - 1. It must not be given to Angels (“do not worship me, worship God alone”)
 - 2. Saints (we are not buying the distinction that Rome makes between veneration and worship)
 - 3. Or any other Creatures
- B. Since the fall worship requires a mediator (LBC 6) (LBC 8)
 - 1. Christ alone
 - 2. No other

Support Texts

“And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”” (Matthew 4:9, ESV)

“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Be gone, Satan! For it is written,’ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’” (Matthew 4:10, ESV)

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.” (John 4:23, ESV)

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” (Matthew 28:19, ESV)

“because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.” (Romans 1:25, ESV)

“Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,” (Colossians 2:18, ESV)

“Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, ‘You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.’ For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19:10, ESV)

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” (John 14:6, ESV)

“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...” (1 Timothy 2:5, ESV)

III. Prayer in the light of general and special revelation - Paragraph 3

“Prayer, with thanksgiving, being one part of natural worship, is by God required of all men. But that it may be accepted, it is to be made in the name of the Son, by the help of the Spirit, according to his will; with understanding, reverence, humility, fervency, faith, love, and perseverance; and when with others, in a known tongue.”
(Psalms 95:1-7; Psalms 65:2; John 14:13, 14; Romans 8:26; 1 John 5:14; 1 Corinthians 14:16, 17)

- A. Prayer/Thanksgiving are part of natural revelation and are required of all men (prayer - request, thanksgiving - gratitude) (See Dickson against hyper-calvinism)
- B. But to be acceptable to God it must (prayer that God accepts, not hears)
 - 1. Be made in the name of the Son
 - 2. By the help of the Spirit
 - 3. According to the will of God (revealed will)
- C. It must include these things:
 - 1. Understanding
 - 2. Reverence
 - 3. Humility
 - 4. Fervency
 - 5. Faith
 - 6. Love
 - 7. Perseverance
- D. And when with others must be in a known tongue.
 - 1. Against the Mass in Latin - not encouraging a private prayer language
 - a) if you know Latin and desire to pray in that language in private, that is permitted. But public prayer ought to be made in the language of the people.

Support Texts

“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice,” (Psalm 95:1-7, ESV)

“O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.” (Psalm 65:2, ESV)

“Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” (John 14:13, ESV)

“If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.” (John 14:14, ESV)

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.” (Romans 8:26, ESV)

“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.” (1 John 5:14, ESV)

“Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?” (1 Corinthians 14:16, ESV)

“For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up.” (1 Corinthians 14:17, ESV)

IV. Principles governing prayer - Paragraph 4

“Prayer is to be made for things lawful, and for all sorts of men living, or that shall live hereafter; but not for the dead, nor for those of whom it may be known that they have sinned the sin unto death.”

(1 Timothy 2:1, 2; 2 Samuel 7:29; 2 Samuel 12:21-23; 1 John 5:16)

- A. Made for all things lawful - you can't pray for sinful things.
- B. For all sorts of living men (classes of men - 1 Tim. 2)
- C. Not for the dead (against Rome and purgatory)
- D. Not for those who have sinned the sin unto death
 - 1. How do we know who has sinned the sin?
 - 2. Those who have openly renounced their profession of faith and have gone back to the world. Open apostates.

Support Texts

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.” (1 Timothy 2:2, ESV)

“Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever.” (2 Samuel 7:29, ESV)

“Then his servants said to him, “What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food.” He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, ‘Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’ But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.” (2 Samuel 12:21–23, ESV)

“If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.” (1 John 5:16, ESV)

Conclusion

Regulative Principle of Worship