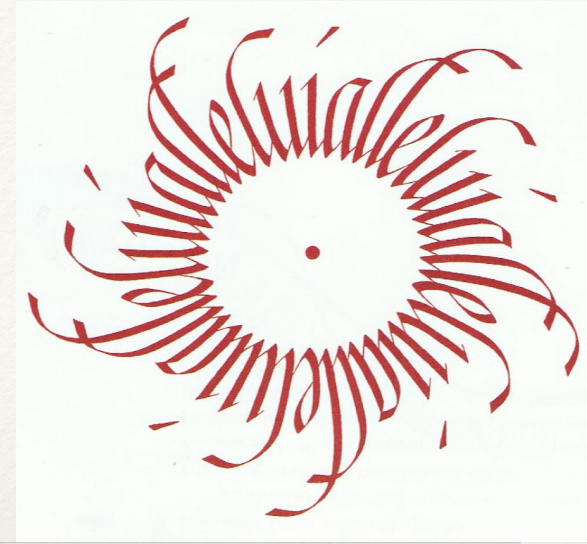


# COURSE OUTLINE

1. THE GOD WHOM WE WORSHIP
2. THE CENTRALITY OF WORSHIP
3. WORSHIP IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
4. WORSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
5. WORSHIP IN CHURCH HISTORY
6. WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH

Biblical Worship

---



Unit 6

WORSHIP IN THE  
CHURCH

---

# A. The Importance of Worship in the Church

- Honors the Father
- Celebrates Christ and His work
- Draws us into fellowship with God
- Foreshadows the Kingdom
- Used by the Holy Spirit (in believers *and* unbelievers)
- Give identity to the church (reminds us who, and whose, we are; inhale/exhale)
- Testifies to the world (challenge *and* invitation)
- Prepares us for preaching

# **B. THE PASTOR AND WORSHIP**

# The PASTOR and worship

- 1. Be a private worshiper**
- 2. Sing, pray and preach out of a walk of worship**
- 3. Study worship**
- 4. Preach on worship**
- 5. Model worship publicly**

# The PASTOR and worship

**6. Lead worship**

**7. Handle the text reverently and responsively in sermon preparation**

**8. Preach as an act of worship**

**9. Preach as an invitation to worship**

# **BREAKOUTS: discuss**

- 1. Be a private worshiper**
- 2. Sing, pray and preach out of a walk of worship**
- 3. Study worship**
- 4. Preach on worship**
- 5. Model worship publicly**
- 6. Lead worship**
- 7. Handle the text reverently and responsively in sermon preparation**
- 8. Preach as an act of worship**
- 9. Preach as an invitation to worship**

## C. Worship and Culture



# CULTURE

“the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group”

or simply:

“the way we do things around here”

Christian worship  
“swims in creation as a fish  
swims in water.”

(Aidan Kavanaugh)



How to be  
**BIBLICALLY FAITHFUL**

and at the same time  
**CULTURALLY RELEVANT?**

# THE CHALLENGES

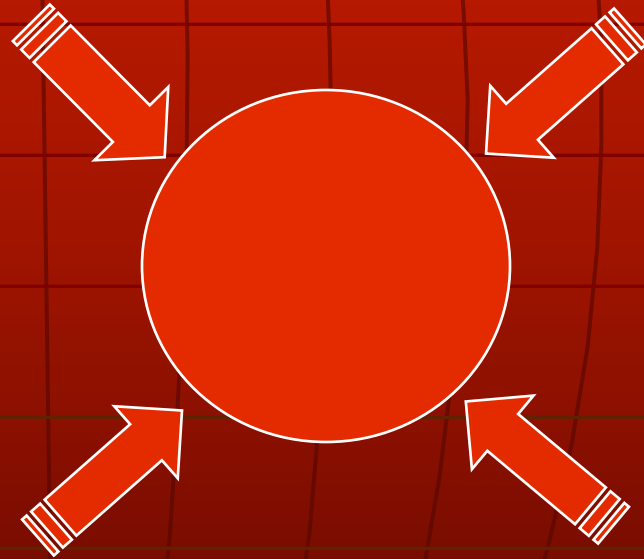
- The silence of the New Testament

In the New Testament, all the focus is on the reality of the glory of Christ, not the shadow and copy of religious objects and forms. It is stunning how indifferent the New Testament is to such things: there is no authorization in the New Testament for worship buildings, or worship dress, or worship times, or worship music, or worship liturgy or worship size or thirty-five-minute sermons, or Advent poems or choirs or instruments or candles. . . .

Almost every worship tradition we have is  
culturally shaped rather than Biblically  
commanded.  
(John Piper)

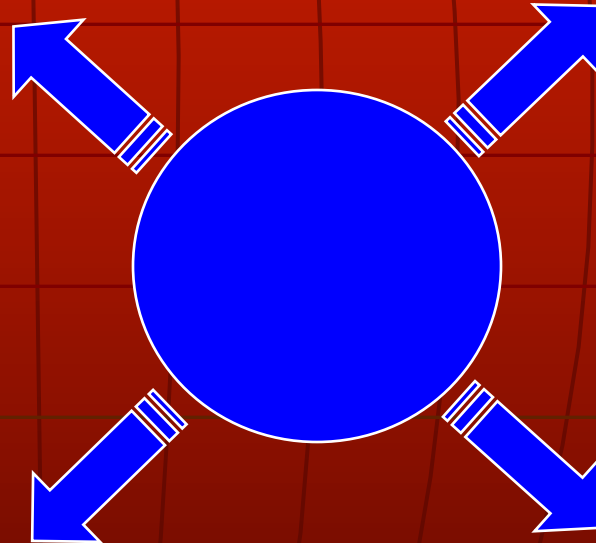
# Old Testament

“Come and see”



# New Testament

“Go and tell”



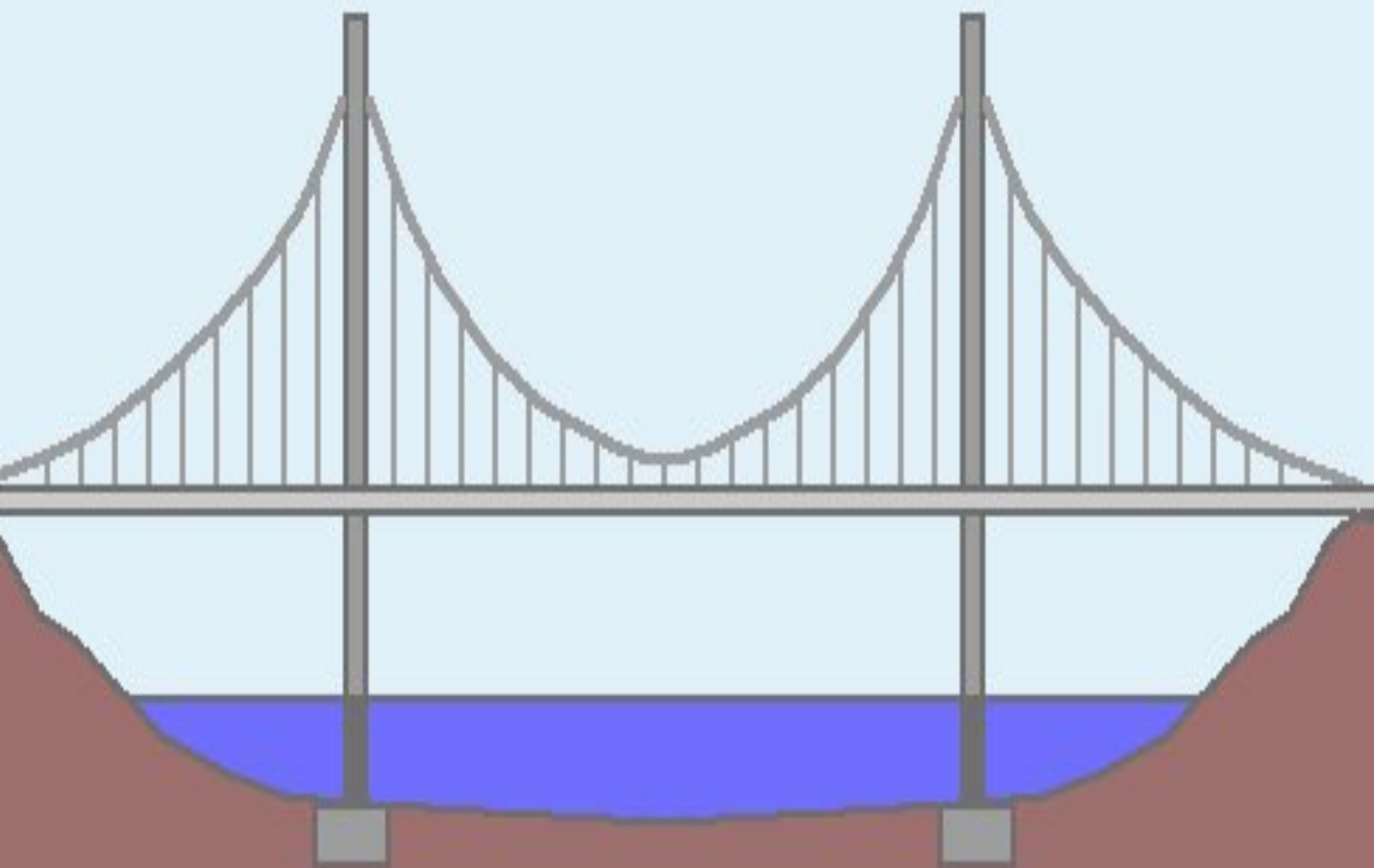


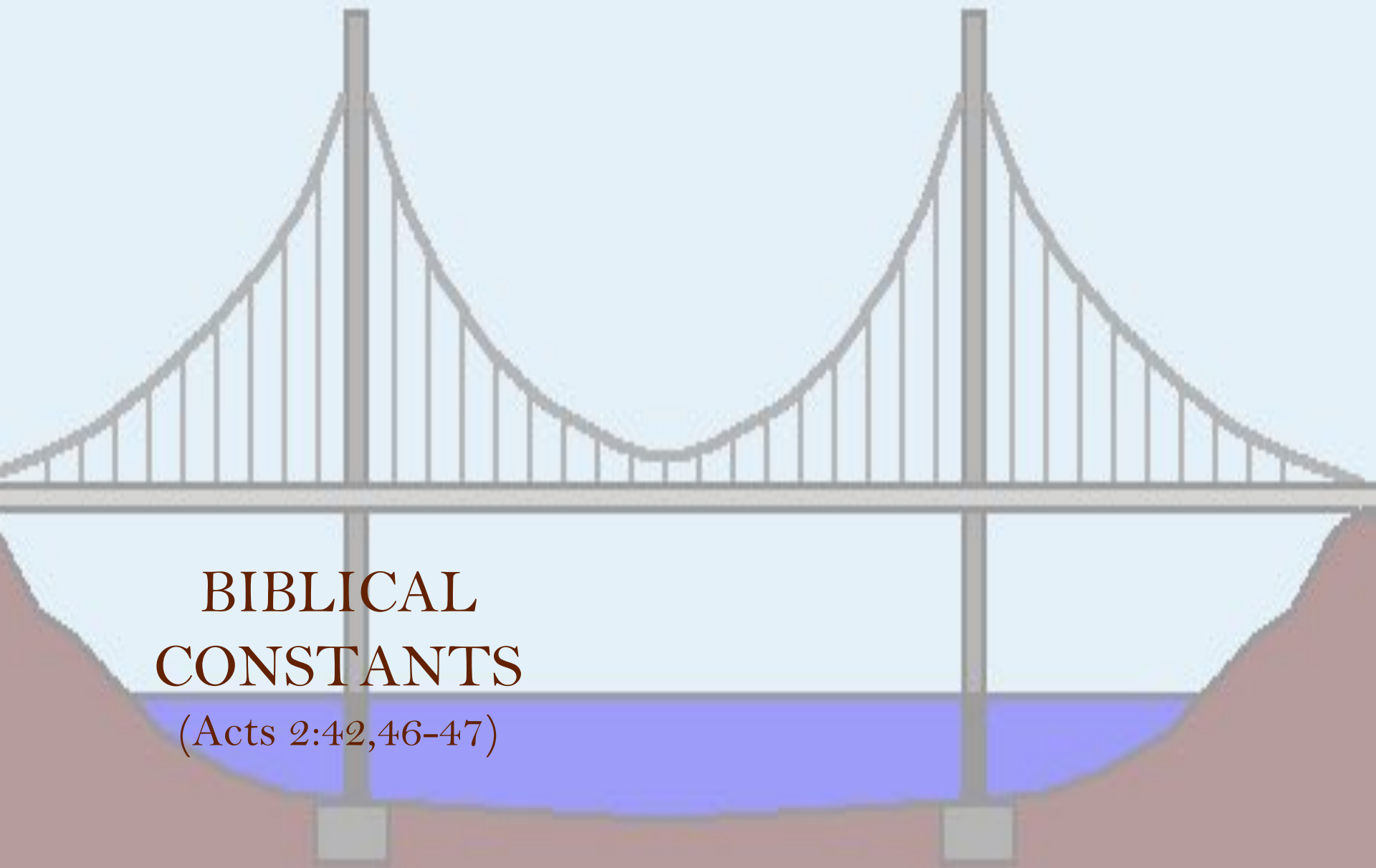
# THE CHALLENGES

- The silence of the New Testament
- Human diversity

- The Sunday morning service was a real downer.
- *Sunday was powerful for me – a feast of worship. I appreciated the reverence and awe.*
- Sunday morning seemed like a funeral.
- *Sunday was super!!!! – simple but profound.*
- Sunday morning worship was extremely boring and difficult to sit through.
- *The time of worship on Sunday was a very special blessing.*

What common elements  
do you find in every tradition  
of Christian worship?





**BIBLICAL  
CONSTANTS**

(Acts 2:42,46-47)

# BIBLICAL CONSTANTS

(Acts 2:42,46-47)

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . . Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

# BIBLICAL CONSTANTS

(Acts 2:42,46-47)

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# BIBLICAL CONSTANTS

(Acts 2:42,46-47)

the apostles' teaching

fellowship

the breaking of bread

prayer

praising God



# BIBLICAL CONSTANTS

(Acts 2:42,46-47)

the Word of God

fellowship

the Lord's Supper

prayer

praise



CULTURAL  
LATITUDE/FREEDOM

BIBLICAL  
CONSTANTS

(Acts 2:42,46-47)



- The silence of the New Testament

# • The silence of the New Testament

[We are] free to find place and time and dress and size and music and elements and objects that help us orient radically toward the supremacy of God in Christ.

(John Piper)

“Christianity is almost infinitely culturally adaptable . . .  
because of how little we are told.”

(John Piper)

Why has Christianity, more than any other major religion of the world, been able to infiltrate so many different radically different cultures? There is of course a core of teachings . . . to which all forms of Christianity are committed. Nevertheless, there is a great deal of freedom in how these absolutes are expressed and take form within a particular culture. Contrary to popular opinion, then, Christianity is not a Western religion that destroys local cultures. Rather Christianity has taken more culturally diverse forms than other faiths. (Tim Keller, *The Reason for God*, chapter 4)



TESTIMONIES FROM CHURCH HISTORY  
ABOUT CULTURAL FREEDOM IN WORSHIP

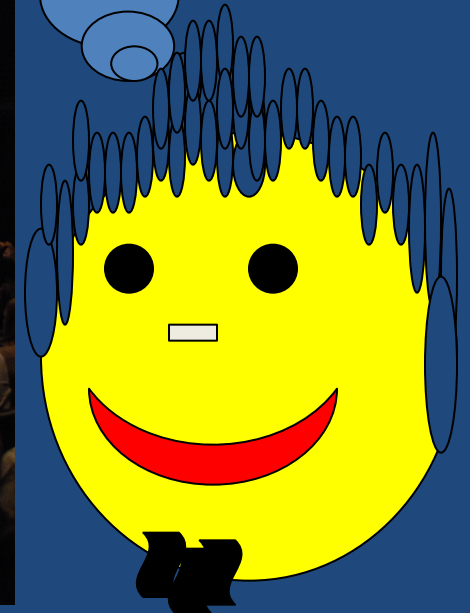
# A Diversity of Cultures and Musical Values

(TOM AVERY [1950-2008], Ethnomusicologist,  
Wycliffe Bible Translators)

1. It is common for people to feel very strongly about the music with which they identify, and to find the music with which they don't identify to be extremely distasteful.
2. We live in a society where different generations may and often do have different musical cultures. (This is caused by the rapid rate of culture change experienced by society, probably unprecedented in the history of the world.)
3. We have people in the same churches who partake of radically different musical cultures.
4. Music is **NOT** a universal language.

Devil's beat, drugs,  
rebellion! The incessant  
beat fogs the mind and if  
the words weren't so  
repetitious they couldn't  
be understood, anyway!

Isn't God wonderful! That  
music reminds me how  
much He loves me and I  
love Him! I want to praise  
Him with my whole  
heart!



Joe Traditional

Johnny NewSong

Isn't God wonderful! That music reminds me how much He loves me and I love Him! I want to praise Him with my whole heart!

Where did they dredge up that funeral dirge? It's flaccid and without any energy! Don't those people care about what they are singing?



Joe



Johnny



A large pipe organ with many tall, silver pipes and wooden casework. The organ is set against a dark blue sky. The pipes are arranged in several groups, with the tallest pipes in the center. The wooden casework is made of a dark wood and has a lattice-like pattern. The organ is mounted on a wooden platform.

the Devil's instrument??



# Ballo- phone

# CULTURAL LATITUDE/FREEDOM

## Implications

No one right way

Biblical constants/principles set limits

God's taste is broader than any of ours!!

# CULTURAL LATITUDE/FREEDOM

## Factors

Church/denominational history and  
traditions

“Tradition is a wonderful servant, but a terrible master”

Cultural context

“The heart language of the people”

# FLEXIBILITY OF PRACTICE

BIBLICAL?

OR  
CULTURAL?

# BIBLICAL OR CULTURAL?

How often do you celebrate Communion  
in your church?


# BIBLICAL OR CULTURAL?

Communion	Pass offering plates/bags	30-minute sermon
Sermon	Use offering chests	60-minute sermon
Candles	Praise	15-minute sermon
Hymns	Dark room	Prayer seated
Choruses	Sunny room	Prayer standing
Giving	Loud music	Prayer with eyes closed
Guitars	Soft music	Sit on floor
Organ	God-centered lyrics	Sit on chairs
Prayer		When to stand?
Pass Communion trays		Scripture reading
Come up to take Communion		Responsive readings



# MISSIONS



A man in a white suit stands at a wooden pulpit, addressing a large, dark-skinned congregation in a church. The church has a simple, rustic interior with a white wall behind the pulpit. A woman in a white dress and hat is visible on the left side of the frame. The scene is dimly lit, with the focus on the speaker and the front of the church.

The African Queen



“When missionaries came to our lands they brought not only the seed of the Gospel, but their own plant of Christianity, flower pot included! So, what we have to do is to break the flower pot, take out the seed of the Gospel, sow it in our own cultural soil, and let our own version of Christianity grow.”

—D.T. Niles (1908-1970), Sri Lanka:

“I have never been to heaven, so I cannot tell you what kind of music is sung in God’s royal village. But know this, God has no personal favorite songs. He hears all that we sing in whatever language. It is sufficient for us to compose hymns of praise to Him with our own music and in our own language for Him to understand.

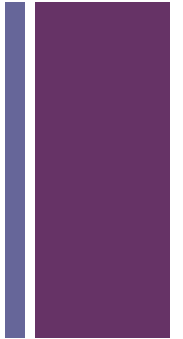
—William Wadé Harris, Liberian missionary to Côte d’Ivoire, 1914 (cited in *Worship and Mission for the Global Church: An Ethnodoxology Handbook*)

# The Canela people





# OUTGROWTHS



- A new professional field

## ETHNODOXOLOGY

“the study of how and why people of diverse cultures glorify the true and living God”

- A new breed of missionary

## ETHNODOXOLOGISTS, ARTS SPECIALISTS

- A new fellowship

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF ETHNODOXOLOGISTS

- New courses

INTRODUCTION TO ETHNODOXOLOGY

ARTS FOR A BETTER FUTURE



Map by Flaticon.com

*Click map to view featured resources from each area*

## What is GEN?

GEN envisions a future in which communities of Jesus followers in every culture engage with God and the world through their own artistic expressions.

We offer networking, training, and resources for the flourishing of biblical and culturally appropriate arts.

[➔ LEARN MORE](#)

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~ a world of arts for God's purposes ~

230+

Resources available

17

Partner organizations

300+

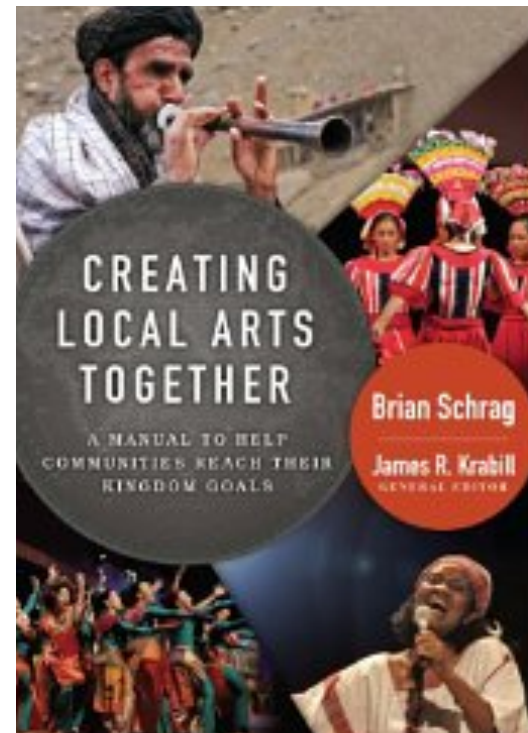
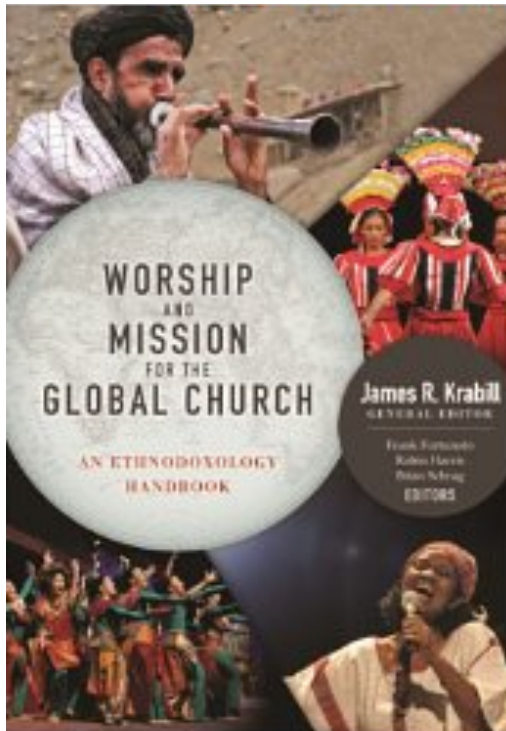
Individual members

80+

Countries where members work

# + OUTGROWTHS

- New textbooks





# Arts Consultant



**Dr. Brian Schrag**  
SIL Ethnomusicology and Arts Coordinator



How might an *Arts Consultant*  
function in *your local context?*



# OUTGROWTHS

## ■ International Events

- *International Summit on Church Music Ministry*  
(Riga, Latvia)
- *National Symposium on Church Music and Worship* (Gujranwala and Karachi, Pakistani)
- *Global Consultation on Music in Missions*
  - 2003 Fort Worth
  - 2006 St. Paul
  - 2010 Singapore
  - 2015 Thailand
  - 2018 Kenya





**4-7 July 2010**

**Singapore Bible College &  
Bartley Christian Church**

全球聖樂與宣教研討會

**global consultation on  
music and missions**

Using Music, Creative Arts and Multimedia in Missions

asia



Organized jointly by Singapore Bible College  
and Bartley Christian Church

FREE admission  
for all evening sessions  
5th & 6th July  
Sessions led by Michael Card  
All are WELCOME!

**MANY TRIBES MANY SONGS  
MANY PEOPLES ONE SAVIOUR**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**LANDA COPE**



**RON MAN**



**STAN MOORE**



**TONY YEO**



*Guest Speaker*  
**MICHAEL CARD**

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.GCOMMHOME.ORG/2010/](http://WWW.GCOMMHOME.ORG/2010/)

(aah hee) iyie oshi ake aomon

(aah hee) You are the only  
one I will always pray to





# CONTEXTUALIZATION

Contextualization, within evangelical Christianity, is communicating the gospel using methods and terms appropriate to a given audience. It represents the understanding that *although the gospel message is abiding and universal, the cultural contexts in which God revealed it and in which it is delivered are distinct and different.*

(Theopedia.com)

# CONTEXTUALIZATION

*the message is abiding and universal,*

*the cultural contexts . . . are distinct and different.*



# + Contextualizing:



- **Language** (learning the host language; Bible translation)
- Modes of **communication** and **preaching**
- **Music** and the other **arts**
- **Worship**



## On the ground

Back in the 90s, the president of Wycliffe shared that when the translators got the new believers to sing the newly translated Scriptures, using their own melodies and music styles, churches grew rapidly. When that did not happen, churches grew slowly.



Roy Fabella, Windsong Ministries  
(Philippines)

*Amistad*



*an UNCHANGING MESSAGE*

+

*CHANGING EXPRESSIONS of that message*

Keeping the main thing  
(the Gospel)  
the main thing

The frightening freedom of worship in the New Testament is a missionary mandate. We must not lock this gospel treasure in any cultural strait-jacket. Rather let us find the place, the time, the dress, the forms, the music that kindles and carries a passion for the supremacy of God in all things.

(John Piper)

# Nairobi Statement on Worship & Culture

“Christian worship relates dynamically to culture in at least four ways.

First, it is **transcultural**, the same substance for everyone everywhere, beyond culture.

Second, it is **contextual**, varying according to the local situation (both nature and culture).

Third, it is **counter-cultural**, challenging what is contrary to the Gospel in a given culture.

Fourth, it is **cross-cultural**, making possible sharing between different local cultures.”




The background features a yellow envelope with a white flap, set against a light yellow background. At the top, there are several faded red stamps, including a circular postmark with a crown and the word 'POSTAGE', and other illegible markings.

# TRANSCULTURAL

“Churches in every generation and in every context must ask in what ways their worship practice can/should transcend their particular culture, placing them within the universal Christian tradition.”

“The Cartigny Statement on Worship and Culture” in *Worship and Culture*, 33

contextual



“The contextual aspect of worship involves recognizing the cultural particularity of Christian worship—the use of local cultural patterns, images, materials, and terms to make worship meaningful and relevant in specific contexts.”

Charles E. Farhadian, “Beyond Lambs and Logos” in *Christian Worship Worldwide*, 22



“The apostolic decree of Acts 15 builds cultural diversity into the Christian church forever.”

Andrew Walls, “The Ephesians Moment in Worldwide Worship” in *Christian Worship Worldwide*, 30



**COUNTERCULTURAL**

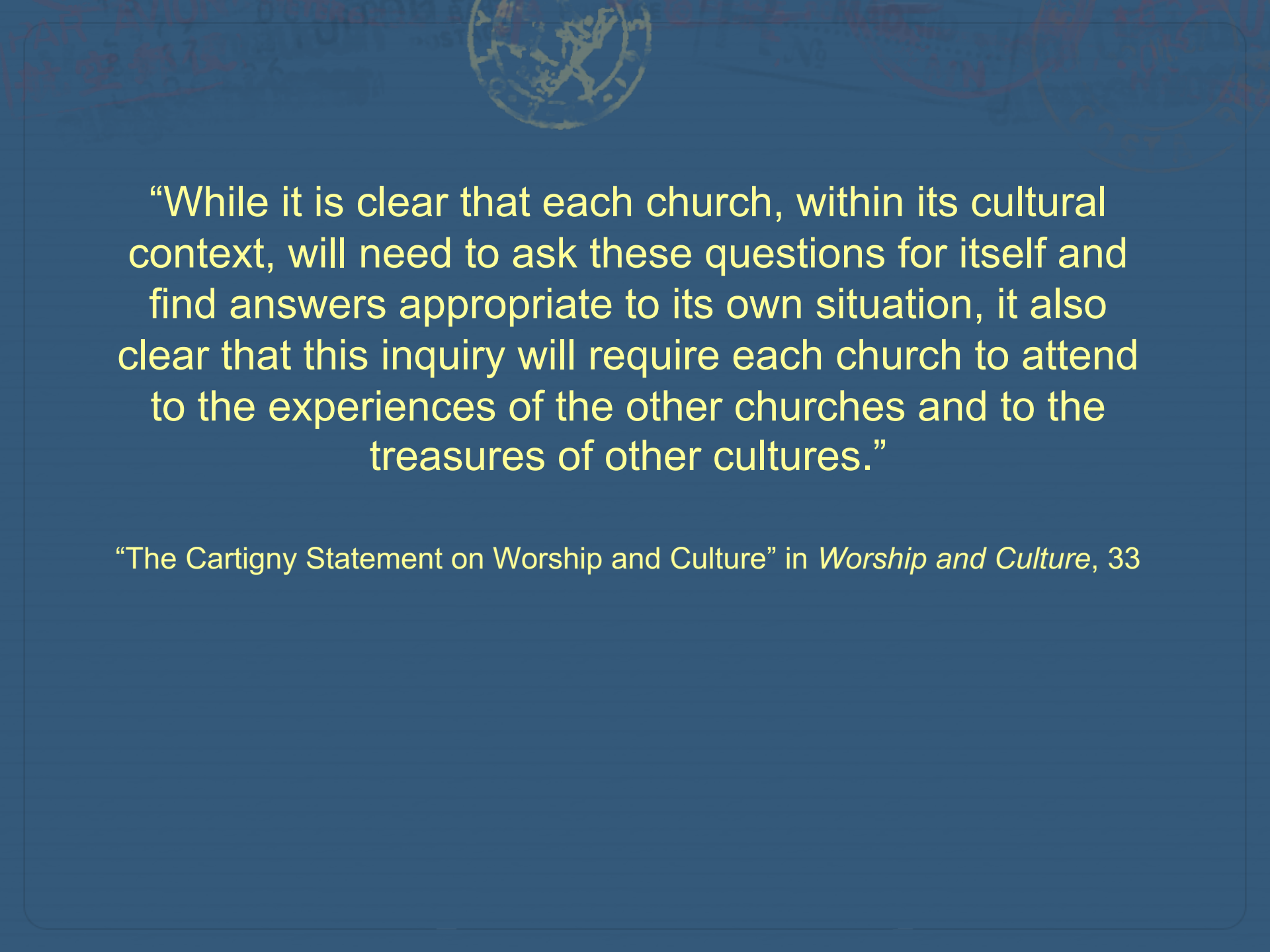
“There must always be some tension between gospel and culture. . . . The gospel doesn’t carry with it a culture of its own. It must always find its place in the culture of the time and place. Nevertheless, it always questions the local culture and holds it accountable before the cross.”

(Ronald P. Byars, *Christian Worship*, 110)



# CROSSCULTURAL





“While it is clear that each church, within its cultural context, will need to ask these questions for itself and find answers appropriate to its own situation, it also clear that this inquiry will require each church to attend to the experiences of the other churches and to the treasures of other cultures.”

“The Cartigny Statement on Worship and Culture” in *Worship and Culture*, 33

# Nairobi Statement on Worship & Culture

“Christian worship relates dynamically to culture in at least

four ways:

First, it is **transcultural**, the same everywhere, beyond

Second, it is **contextual**, varying according to the situation (both natural and cultural).

Third, it is **counter-cultural**, challenging the dominant culture and presenting the Gospel in a given culture.

Fourth, it is **cross-cultural**, making possible sharing between different local cultures.”

## BREAKOUTS

Which is strongest in your church/ context?

Which needs the most work?



Cultural

CULTURAL  
LATITUDE/FREEDOM

BIBLICAL  
CONSTANTS

(Acts 2:42,46-47)

BIBLICAL  
PRINCIPLES

Biblical

“Worship is the *most universal* [following unchanging biblical guidelines] and at the same time the *most particular* [embodying distinct cultural expressions] of the activities in which Christian communities engage.”

(John H. Erickson and Eileen W. Lindner, “Worship and Prayer in Ecumenical Formation,” *Theological Education* 34, Supplement [1997]: 23).



# BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

1. God's glory, and our joyful celebration of it in worship, should be the focus and goal of all life and ministry.

*Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Cor 10:31)*

Worship is an end in itself. By definition other types of ministry necessarily have horizontal, man-focused aspects; but worship is purely vertically focused. It is the primary purpose for which God created us and therefore our highest endeavor and greatest fulfillment. (Isaiah 43:6-7; Psalm 16:11; Matthew 22:35-38; 1 Peter 4:11)

**THEREFORE:** We shall give worship careful focus and attention in the life of this church. We will relate all of our activities to it and to the goal of magnifying the glory of God. We will make explicit God's glory as our most important pursuit, aim and preoccupation.

# DOXOLOGICAL WORSHIP

1. God's glory, and our joyful celebration of it in worship, should be the focus and goal of all life and ministry.

“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do,  
do all to the glory of God.”

(1Cor. 10:31)

NOT:

“What great worship  
we had today!”

BUT:

“What a great God  
we worshiped today!”





"This song isn't really special to me, but it does provide a wonderful showcase for my voice."

# THEOCENTRIC WORSHIP

2. Worship is first and foremost for God.

“Worship God.”  
(Revel. 19:10; 22:9)

“I don’t have any trouble with consumer-oriented worship, as long as we remember Who the Consumer is.” (Eric Alexander)

HOSANNA! MUSIC®

WORSHIP WITH DON MOEN  
God Is Good

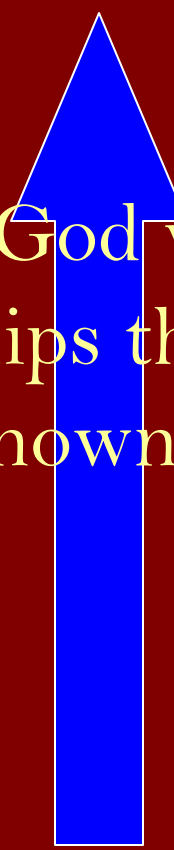

LIVE  
PRAISE

## DIALOGICAL WORSHIP

3. Worship is a dialogue between God and His people, a rhythm of revelation and response.


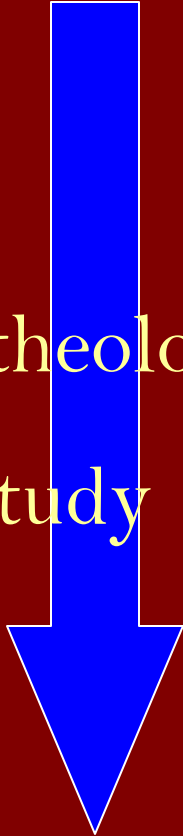
“Great is the Lord,  
and greatly to be praised.”

(Psalm 96:4)



“Our worship is our answer to God who has first addressed us. Man worships the God who has made Himself known.”

(William Nicholls)



“The purpose of  
theology is doxology;  
we study in order to praise.”  
(J. I. Packer)

# WORD-SATURATED WORSHIP

4. The Word must be central in our worship.

“Praise Him  
according to His excellent greatness.”

(Psalm 150:2)

# WORD-SATURATED WORSHIP

“Thank you for ministering the Word  
to us this evening.”



# PARTICIPATORY WORSHIP

5. Worship is the responsibility of all God's people.

“So we Your people and the sheep of Your pasture  
will give thanks to You forever.”

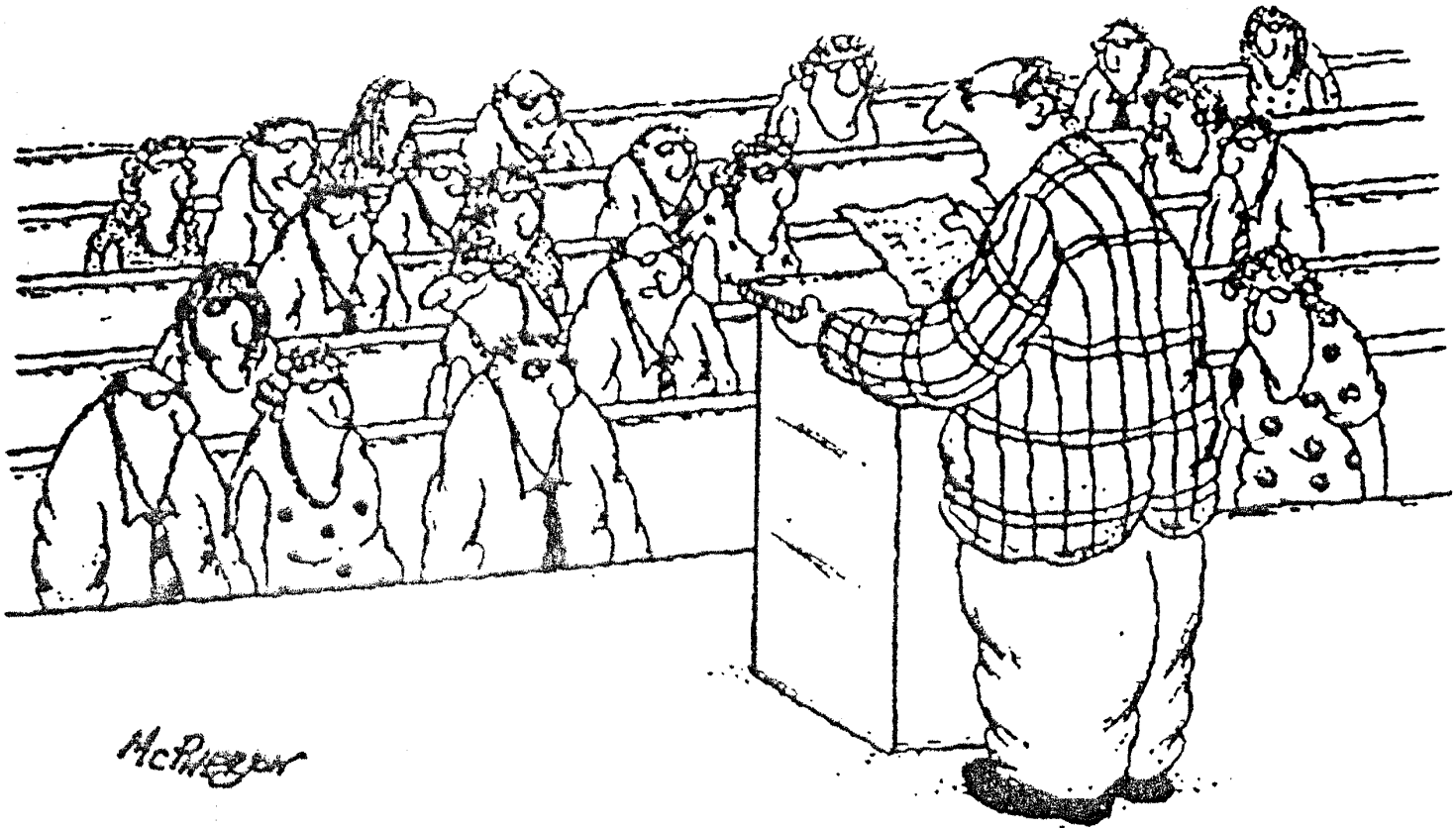
(Psalm 79:13)

# Worship Is a Verb

(Robert Webber)

The question is not,  
'Do you have a voice?'  
but  
'Do you have a song?'

- Not too loud
- Not too high
- Not too complex
- Not too new



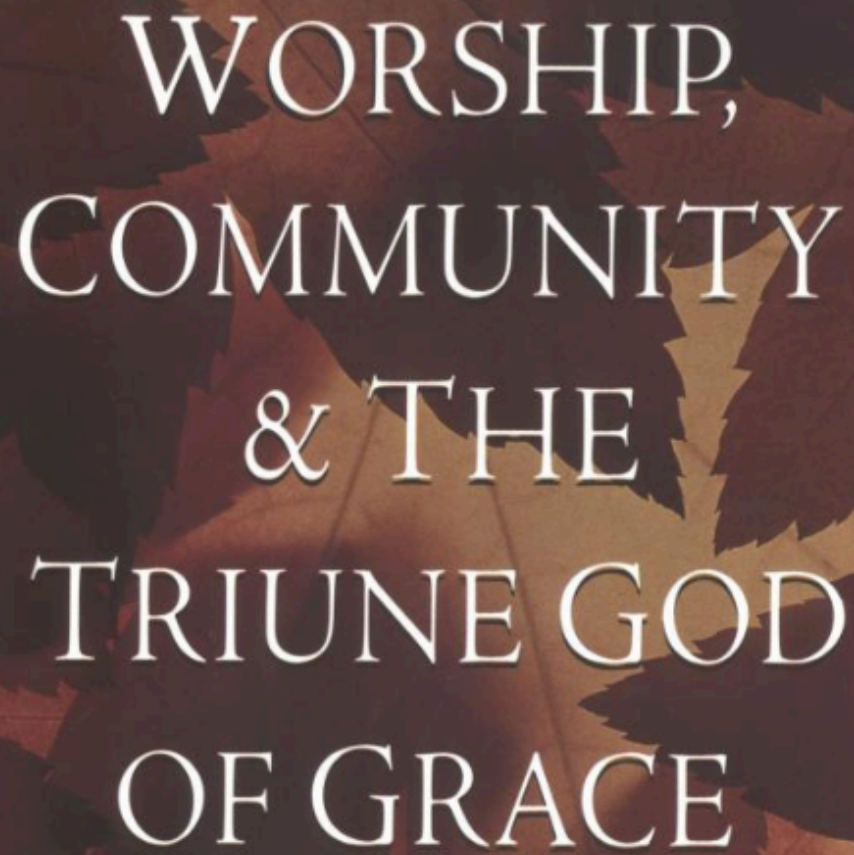
McPhee

"SINCE TODAY'S SERVICE IS BEING TAPED FOR COMMEMORATIVE PURPOSES, WE ASK THAT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS PLEASE REFRAIN FROM SINGING DURING THE HYMNS: ALICE ZUTMAN, ED FROMP, CAROL VIDMAR, ..."

# CHRIST-LED WORSHIP

6. Our worship is acceptable in and through Christ  
our High Priest.

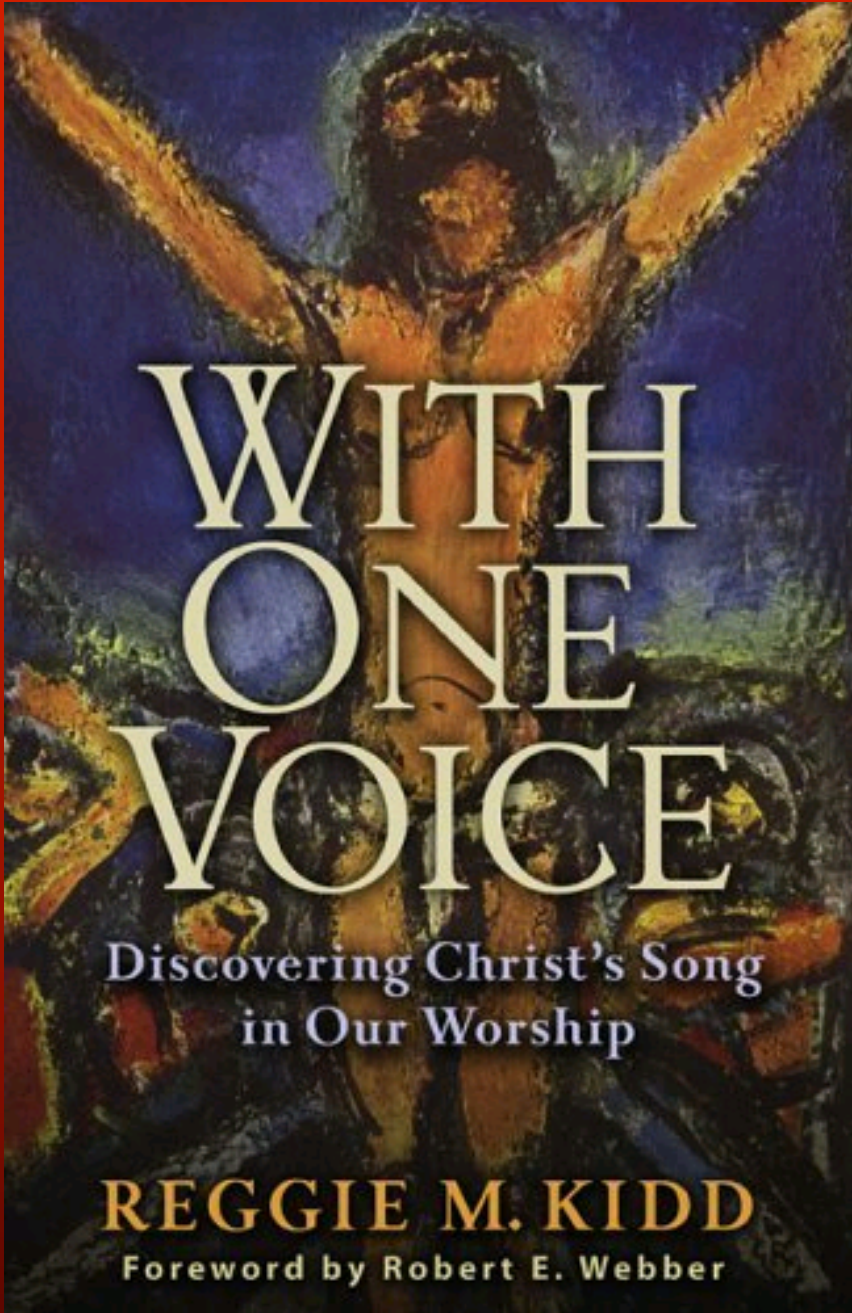
“In the midst of the assembly I will sing Your  
praise.” (Hebrews 2:12)

The book cover features a background of autumn leaves in shades of brown, orange, and red. The text is centered and written in a white, serif font. The title is split into five lines: 'WORSHIP,', 'COMMUNITY', '& THE', 'TRIUNE GOD', and 'OF GRACE'. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the title.

WORSHIP,  
COMMUNITY  
& THE  
TRIUNE GOD  
OF GRACE

---

JAMES B.  
TORRANCE



# WITH ONE VOICE

Discovering Christ's Song  
in Our Worship

**REGGIE M. KIDD**

Foreword by Robert E. Webber

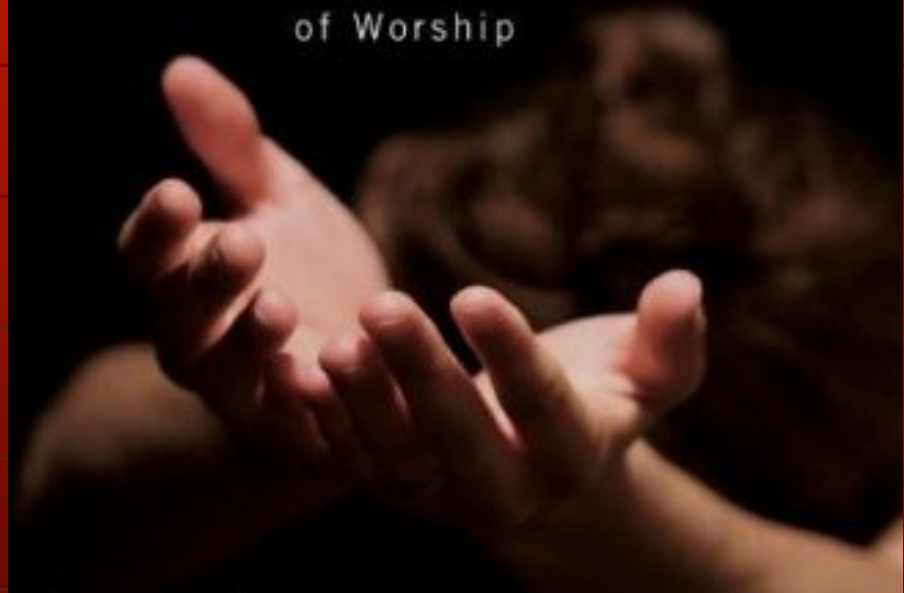
# PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

Hebrews 2:12

and the

Christology

of Worship



Ron Man



# CHRIST-LED WORSHIP

album blurb:

“[The artist] ushered the crowd into His Presence with uplifting praise and worship melodies throughout the night.”

NOT!

# SPIRIT-ENABLED WORSHIP

7. Our response of worship is enabled, motivated and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

“We are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.”

(Philippians 3:3)

Revelation



Response



Holy Spirit

# WHOLE-LIFE WORSHIP

8. Worship is the response of our entire lives to  
God.

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

■ (Romans 12:1)

# HEART WORSHIP

9. God is much more concerned  
with our heart than with the form  
of our worship.

“I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice.”

(Hosea 6:6)

“Man looks on the outward appearance,  
but God looks on the heart.”

(1 Samuel 16:7)

# EDIFYING WORSHIP

10. Worship should promote the unity  
and edification of the body.

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.”

(Philippians 2:3)

“So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”

(Romans 14:19)

# A Sacrifice of Praise

(retreat: songs you don't like)



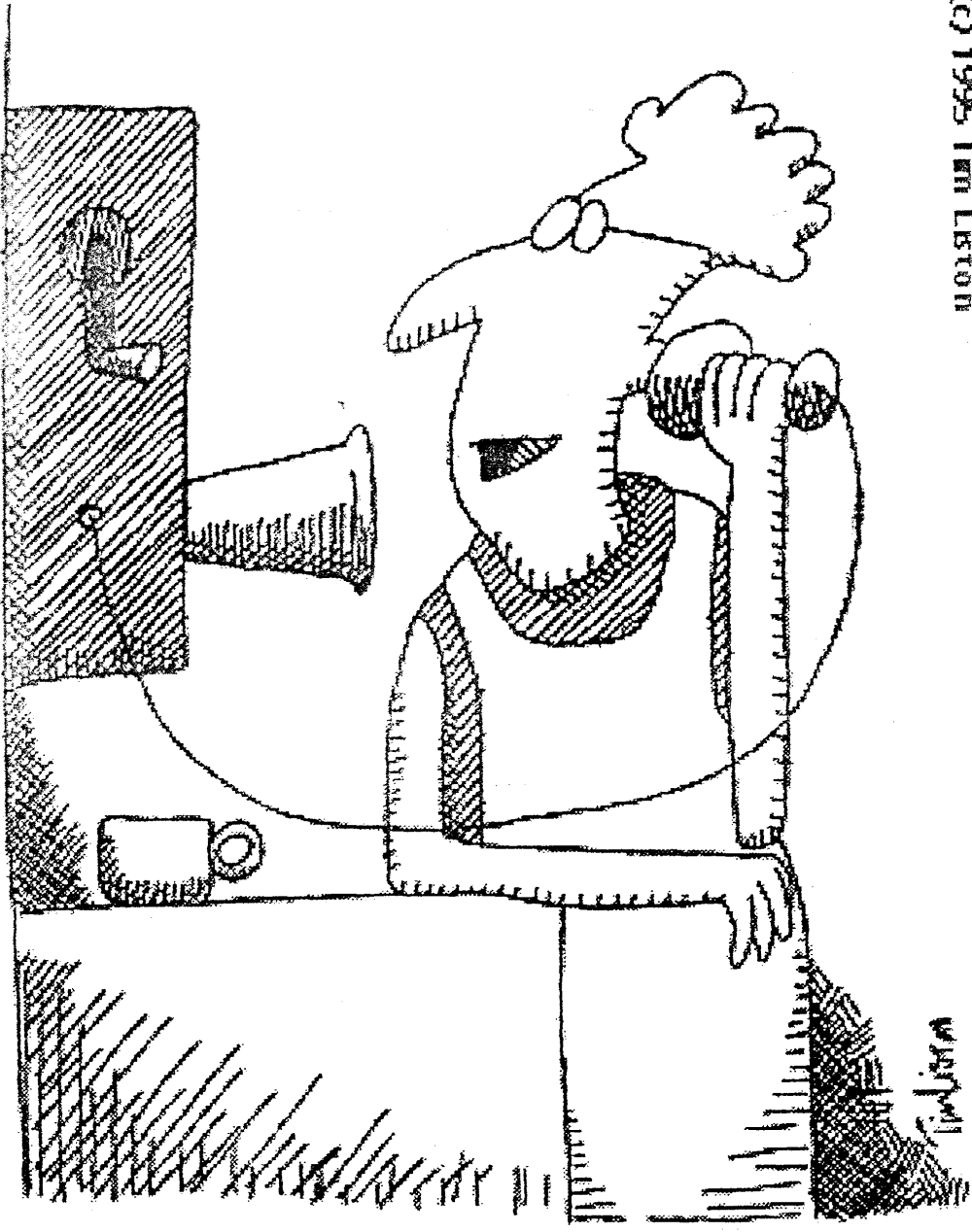
# TRANS-GENERATIONAL WORSHIP

## 11. Young and old need each other in the Body of Christ.

"Young men and maidens, old men and children:  
Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is  
exalted." (Psalm 148:12-13)

"Older men. . . . Older women. . . . Young women. . . .  
Young men. . . ." (Titus 2:2-8)

(c) 1995 Tim Liston



**"They're putting choruses in hymnbooks and projecting hymns onto the screen. It's getting so I can't remember what I'm not supposed to like!"**

# TAUGHT WORSHIP

12. These things must be taught and re-taught.

“Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.”

(1 Thessalonians 4:1)

## BREAKOUTS:

### BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF WORSHIP

1. Are any of these new to you?
2. Which of them means the most to you?



Cultural

CULTURAL  
LATITUDE/FREEDOM

BIBLICAL  
CONSTANTS

(Acts 2:42,46-47)

BIBLICAL  
PRINCIPLES

Biblical

# CONTEXTUALIZATION

Contextualization, within evangelical Christianity, is communicating the gospel using methods and terms appropriate to a given audience. It represents the understanding that although the gospel message is **abiding and universal**, the cultural contexts in which God revealed it and in which it is delivered are **distinct and different**.  
(Theopedia.com)



Cultural

“distinct and different”

**CULTURAL  
LATITUDE/FREEDOM**

**BIBLICAL  
CONSTANTS**

(Acts 2:42,46-47)

**BIBLICAL  
PRINCIPLES**

**Biblical**

“abiding and universal”

1635

4696

# LIVING ROOT BRIDGE MODEL

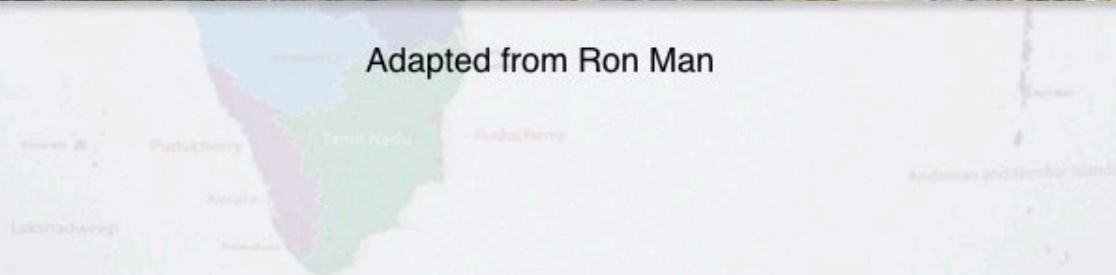


**FLEXIBILITY OF FORM**

**BIBLICAL  
CONSTANTS  
(Acts 2:42, 46-47)**

**BIBLICAL  
PRINCIPLES**

Adapted from Ron Man



4096



# Stone Soup

# Worship: Our Gift to God

*What about the course  
impacted you the most?*

Now may the God who gives  
perseverance and encouragement  
grant you to be  
*of the same mind* with one another  
according to Christ Jesus,  
so that  
*with one accord*  
you may  
*with one voice*  
*glorify* the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Romans 15:5-6)

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