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Presbyterianism 101

ALL TO GOD'S GLORY:
Religious Worship: Duty and Object
(WCF 21.1-2)

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OFFICER TRAINING, NOMINATION, AND ELECTION PROCESS:

Preparation and training for those discerning a call to church office continues each Wednesday night. The Session has approved the following schedule for the election of additional church officers:

January: Preaching on the biblical qualification and duties of church officers.

February: Nominations for church office (elder or deacon) will be received.

March: Officer training concludes and those nominated for church office will be examined. A list of all nominees will be made available at this time.

April: God willing, near the end of April a congregational meeting will be held to elect additional men to serve on the Session and Diaconate. Please be praying now for whom the Lord may call to serve Him as Church officers.

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The Christian Life

- **New Section of WCF:** Law and Liberty, Worship and Church, Civil Government
- **Critical Chapter to for Christian Life**
- **Worship:** We were created to worship
 - Does God care *how* He is worshiped?
 - *If* God cares *how* He is worshiped, how do we know what He wants?
 - *If* God cares *how*, how much does He care?

The Christian Life: Worship

- **Regulative Principle of Worship (RPW):**
Who regulates worship, who decides what is proper for worship?
- **Other Resources:**
 - David Gilbert Article (on church website)
 - Podcast: *Jerusalem Chamber*
- **Sola Scriptura:** central to Reformation and Christian life: justification, liberty, worship

The Christian Life: Worship

- **Worship and Liberty:** Christian liberty not only is freedom from curse and condemnation of sin, but also our neighbor's preferences
 - **Distinctiveness of Reformed Worship**
 - Worship *is* Service: of whom?
 - Regulative Principle vs. Normative Principle
- Deut. 12:32**, *Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it*

Duty of Proper Worship (21.1)

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The light of nature shows that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all, is 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 with 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 imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the holy Scripture.

Duty of Proper Worship (21.1)

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- **What is Light of Nature?** General Revelation
- **We are created as worshippers:** we cannot not worship
- **Nature displays there is a God, He is worthy of all our worship**

Duty of Proper Worship (21.1)

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- **Worship according to nature's light is always unacceptable**
 - Eye-Pleasing
 - Merit-Seeking
 - Mediator-Inventing
- **Nature tells us to worship, but we always do so incorrectly**

Duty of Proper Worship (21.1)

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- **Acceptable Worship:** God tells us what He desires
 - Innovative Worship Unacceptable: *This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.* (Matt. 15:8-9)
 - Worship is Not Needed: *The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.* (Acts 17:24-25)

Duty of Proper Worship (21.1)

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- **Acceptable Worship:** God tells us what He desires
- **False Worship is Sinful**
- **Temptation to false worship is pervasive**

“Since God has told us *how* He is to be worshiped, then to worship Him any other way is *worse* than no worship at all!” - John Gerstner

Object of Worship (21.2)

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Religious worship is to be given to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and to Him alone; not to angels, saints, or any other creature: and since the fall, not without a Mediator; nor in the mediation of any other but of Christ alone.

Object of Worship (21.2)

- **Religious Worship?**
- **The Triune God is worthy of worship:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - Gerstner: "Any worship that is not triune and not mediate by Christ is repugnant to Him"
 - Christ alone is Mediator between God and Man
- **Religious worship without a mediator?**

Object of Worship (21.2)

- **Religious Worship:** to God alone and not *to* or *through* mere creatures
 - E.g. Mary, Angels, Saints, Mamaw, etc.
 - Christ alone is sufficient

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." (Rev. 22:8-9)
