

ATLANTIC DISTRICT DIACONATE PROGRAM

WORSHIP

VI. Variety in Worship

A. *Lex Orandi Lex Credendi*

We Americans are a-historical. Most of us know very little about history and probably care even less.... Unfortunately most churches in this country have the same mentality. This is especially true of conservative Protestant churches... Unfortunately, when it comes to worship, there is a terrible price to pay for this attitude. When we cut ourselves off from the rich treasury of resources and from the collective spirituality of God's people throughout the ages, we diminish our vision of God. We isolate ourselves from what God would do in the world through us, his church.

1. Definition: "The law of praying (is the) law of believing". "The way people pray/worship is the way they believe."
 - a. This shows us that there are more purposes to worship than simply praising God.
 - b. Worship must reflect the doctrine, history and practice of the Church. Without this we become isolated islands to ourselves.
 - c. False assumption: The liturgy turns people off/away. Most people hunger for some form of structure, particularly in worship. Using the liturgy requires patience, teaching, assisting and bringing people up to the level of understanding and usage.
 - d. The liturgy normally includes Confession of Sins, Kyrie, Hymn of Praise, The Creed, The Sanctus, the Agnus Dei, Communion, benediction.
 - e. The liturgy can be used in many different ways, but it should always be in place. This is a link backwards to the Saints and forward into heaven.

2. Hymnody.
 - A. Hymnody has always been a part of the life of the Church. "When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives" (in this case probably Psalms 115-118) Mark 14:26.
 - B. The Church has always recognized hymnody to :
 1. Praise and Pray to God;
 2. Apply the Scriptures to the singers/hearers
 3. Teach the Faith
 4. Maintain the Faith
 5. Defend the Faith.
 6. Blend the voices of the Saints as One before the throne of the Lamb.

3. Small Group Worship/Prayer
 - A. Family Devotions
 - B. Meetings at Church
 - C. Small Groups at Church
 - D. Difference between "Devotion" and "Worship"

4. Variety in Worship
 - A. Liturgy provides for much variety.
 - B. Musical Settings-
 1. Make sure music fits text
 2. Make sure music is appropriate for Worship
 3. Use of Instruments encouraged in the Scriptures.
 4. Worship needs to be "counter-cultural" meaning that the Church does not allow the mores, styles, or music of the day dictate how worship takes place. The Church is called not to embrace the culture but to be culture's salt and light with the Gospel. Crucial and careful decisions should be made regarding the usage of music within worship.