

PT 522 Reformed Spirituality	6 Worship (Public)
WSC / 2025	Oasis in the Wilderness

Secret Worship

Secret Prayer is Necessary for the Christian

Matt 6.6 - *But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

A. Our Lord

1. His teaching
 - a. Assumes its presence – Matt 6.5-6
 - b. Commends it: *re. temptation* (Matt 26.41); *re. harvest* (Matt 9.38); *re. persevering* (Luke 18.1)
2. His example - Matt 14.23; Mark 14.32; Luke 5.16; 6.12; 9.28; 22.44

B. Measure of a Christian's health (motives, heavenly-mindedness)

~Jn Calvin: "*Prayer is the chief exercise of faith*"

1. Gratitude, humble dependence
2. "Casting all our cares"
3. Find peace, strength, forgiveness, joy

C. Persevering in Prayer

1. Earnestly - Gen 32.26; Ps 62.8; Jer 29.13
2. Constantly - 1Thess 5.17; Luke 11.5-13; 18.1

Adolph Monod: "*Everything through prayer; nothing without it.*" - *Hope of Glory*, 155

Private Reading of the Word

A. Slowing down (*WLC* 157)

2Tim 3.16 - *All Scripture is breathed out by G. and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness*

Read it as...	Faith	Life
Students - to <i>teach us</i>		
Sinners - to <i>rebuke</i>		
Saved Sinners - to <i>correct</i>		
Soldiers - <i>train in righteousness</i>		

B. Approaches

1. Meditation – Psalm 1.2; 119.97
2. Memorization - *Psalm 119.11; Matt 12.35; Col 3.16*

C. Methods

1. Bible Reading Plans: Quantity & Quality
2. Study Disciplines: Journals
3. Memorization Methods

Family Worship

What is Family Worship? – Deut 6.6-9; 11.18-19

A. J.W. Alexander: “*Joint worship rendered to God, by all the members of one household*”

J.I. Packer - “*Sunday by Sunday, the family should seek to pool the profiting of its members from the public ordinances; day by day, its members should seek to encourage each other in the way of God.*” – *The Quest for Godliness*, 255

B. Assumes the Importance of the Family

1. Passover was a family feast, originally
2. Membership in the covenant community is through family
3. Puritans: “Family is like a little church”

B.M. Palmer: “*Church is a house, a family of God*”

Th. Manton: “*Family is the seminary of church and state and if children be not well principled there, all miscarries.*”

Why have Family Worship?

A. Households in Scripture – Gen 18.19; Deut 6.5-8; Josh 24.15; cf. Acts 10.1,33,47-48

B. Both parents responsible - Eph 6.2

1. Fathers - Eph 6.4 (Psa 78.5)

Ministers & Elders are “...to make diligent search and enquiry [sic], in the congregations committed to their charge respectively, whether there be among them any family or families which use to neglect this necessary duty; and if any such family be found, the head of the family is to be first admonished privately to amend his fault; and, in case of his continuing therein, he is to be gravely and sadly reproved by the session; after which reproof, if he be found still to neglect Family-worship, let him be, for his obstinacy in such an offence, suspended and debarred from the Lord’s supper, as being justly esteemed unworthy to communicate therein, till he amend.”

2. Mothers - 2Tim 3.14; 1.5

Proverbs & “mothers” - Prov 10.1; 15.20; 19.26; 20.20; 23.22,25; 28.24; 29.15; 30.17; 31.1

- C. Objections - vs. Matt 19.14
- D. Advantages - Exod 12.25,26
 - 1. Nurtures confessionalism
 - 2. Prepares them for public worship
 - 3. Opportunity to discover needs
- E. Tips
 - 1. be Consistent
 - 2. be Reasonable
 - J.W. Alexander - “It was the fault of our forefathers to make it insufferably long.”
 - 3. Helps
 - a. Antiquity: *Westminster Directory*; B.M. Palmer, *The Family*; J.W. Alexander, *Thoughts on Family Worship*, Rd Baxter, *Practical Works*, vol. 4 “Poor Man’s Family Book”; “The Catechizing of Families” Catherine Vos, *The Child’s Story Bible*
 - b. Recent: Kevin DeYoung, *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook* (Crossway); Terry Johnson, *The Family Worship Book* (Christian Focus); David Murray, *Exploring the Bible Together: A 52-Week Family Worship Plan* (Crossway); Joel Beeke, *Family Worship Bible Guide* ^{RHB}

Public Worship

Defining Public Worship

1. **Elements** (*Conf.* 21.5)

Calvin: “Thus, it became the unvarying rule that no meeting of the church should take place without the Word, prayers, partaking of the Supper, and almsgiving.”
2. **Forms** – The content of a particular element (words of prayer)
3. **Circumstances** – The incidental that is attached to the essential.

Principles of Public Worship

- A. The *Function* of Public Worship: Covenant Meeting
 1. Covenant is the only way a relationship can exist
 - a. God “makes” Covenants: Gen 9.11; 15.18; Ex 24.8; 34.27; Dt 9.9; 29.1; Josh 24.25; 1Kgs 8.21; 2Kgs 23.3; 2Chr 34.31; cf. 1Sam 18.3; 20.16; 23.18
 - b. God *renews* the Covenant (reaffirms/his rela. w/ his people: Passover (Exod 12,13); Day of Atonement (Lev 16); Exod 24 (after Golden Calf); Joshua 8 (Possess Land); Joshua 24; 1Kings 8 (Sol. *dedicates* Temple); 2Kings 23 (Josiah’s Reforms))

2. N.T.: Worship is covenantal.

Matt 26.27 - “*Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*”

- a. Worship is acceptable *via* Christ- 1Pet 2.5
- b. Worship is access *via* Christ – Eph 2.18; Heb 4.16

B. The *Architecture* of Public Worship: The “Dialogical Principle”

1. Antiphonal character of worship

“As a service of public worship is in its essence a meeting of God and his people, the parts of the service are of two kinds: those which are performed on behalf of God, and those which are per-formed by the congregation. In the former the worshippers are receptive, in the latter they are active.” – OPC *DPW* 3.1

- a. God Speaks to His People: Word (reading, preaching, assurance of pardon)
- b. God’s People Speak to God: Praise (song, prayers), confessing sin, etc.

2. Who is worship for? God-centered *and* People-oriented.

C. The *Goal* of Public Worship: Communion with God

1. God draws near to us - Eph 2.19; 1Pet 2.5

“A service of public worship is not merely a gathering of God's children with each other but before all else a meeting of the triune God with his chosen people.” – OPC *DPW* 2.2

2. We *draw near* to God – Heb 4.16; 7.19,25; 10.1,22; 11.6; Jam 4.8 (*cf.* Lev 9.7)

D. The “*Place*” of Public Worship:

1. John 4.23,24 (Php 3.3)

2. Heb 12.18-24 – our means to our life above, now (transcending this world)

E. The *Purpose* of Public Worship: Sanctification

1. The Spirit of God works in our hearts *via* Means of Grace (*WSC* 88)

- “*Seek him in his ordinances.*” – Rd Sibbes, *Works*, 6.201

2. Edified: God comforts, assures, and equips our faith, hope, courage, persev.

3. Impact: Worship changes you