

THEOLOGICAL NORMS FOR GOOD WORSHIP

Theological norms serve as touchstones that determine whether or not something is true. Norms can also help us determine whether or not our practices are hitting their intended mark. Here are some theological norms that can spur your own work of establishing theological norms your community contributes to and agrees to abide by as they shape creative worship.

GOOD WORSHIP SEEKS TO:

- ❖ Glorify God
- ❖ Ascribe ultimate worth to God
- ❖ Exalt Christ
- ❖ Be in Christ, through Christ
- ❖ Be attentive to and invite the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Open people to the work of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Offer God's grace to human beings
- ❖ Be accommodating to the human beings gathered
- ❖ Foster *shalom* for all of creation
- ❖ Issue forth in Christian ethical living
- ❖ Occur within the wider communion of saints (past and present, transcending time and space), which means treating tradition seriously even as new creative forms are being developed
- ❖ Be a reflection of *basileia* ("Kingdom of God," lit. sovereign work of God in the world)
- ❖ Aid in the people's (not just individuals') worship of God (*leiturgia*)
- ❖ Be in a style appropriate to the people for their way of praise and prayer
- ❖ Seek to move people from sin's oppression to God's sovereign love for all
- ❖ Balance transcendence and immanence
- ❖ Be functional as well as beautiful
- ❖ Promote *koinonia*/fellowship
- ❖ Invite people into the dynamic presence of God in the sanctuary and help them see and participate in God's work in the world every moment of their lives

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