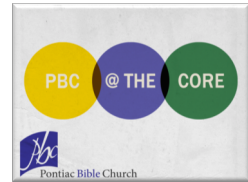


Corporate Worship & The Word



Because God is worthy, we will worship.

God alone is worthy to be worshiped

To worship someone or something is to ascribe glory, value and worth to it (Ps 29:1-2). Because He alone is the Creator and Sustainer of all life, because He alone is holy and there is no other like Him, God alone is worthy to be worshiped (Matt 4:10; Rev 4:11). Because God alone is worthy, we will worship God alone.

Worship is a response; God is the initiator

We would not choose to worship God on our own (Rom 1:18-31; Eph 2:1-10). God sought out His enemies, sent Christ to redeem us, and calls us back into a relationship with Him (Rom 5:10). God is the initiator; worship is our response.

Worship is the primary reason for the existence of the Church

We are first and foremost a worshipping community (Acts 2:42-47). Every other ministry of the church flows from and is inspired by our worship of God.

Worship is a celebration of who God is and what He's done; it's all about Jesus

Ultimately, worship is a celebration of the person and work of Jesus. Worship is not about us. It is not about our style of music or our good works. Worship is all about Jesus. Only when worship is centered and focused on Christ does it become a source of spiritual replenishment.

Worship must be both faithful AND relevant

Corporate worship must be faithful to our message and to our mission (John 4:24). God sent us to proclaim the gospel and make disciples, and we must not abandon either in our worship. Worship must also be relevant. God has planted our church in a specific time and place, and we have a responsibility before Him to worship in a way that engages the World around us.

Worship is a verb; congregational participation is of utmost importance

Worship is not a spectator sport; it must not be dominated by people on a stage. The primary goal of corporate worship is to engage God's people in exalting Him. We should strive to make every service filled with opportunities for the congregation to actively participate in worship. Every element should be as participatory as possible.

Historically corporate worship services have included the following elements:

1. Congregational singing
2. Teaching from God's Word
3. Corporate Prayer
4. Giving an offering
5. Communion

When a corporate worship service is done well, it will accomplish these objectives (see Psalm 145):

1. God will be exalted (vv. 1-3)
2. Faith will be proclaimed from one generation to the next (vv. 4-7)
3. All creation will join in worship (vv. 8-10)
4. The gospel will be proclaimed and unbelievers invited to enter into God's Kingdom (vv. 11-13)
5. The Body of Christ will be nourished and edified (vv. 14-21)