



VS

ELEMENTS
THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE BIBLE

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Gn | Ex | Lev | Nm | Di | Je | Jg | Ru | 1Sm | 2Sm | | |
| 1Kg | 2Kg | 1Ch | 2Ch | Er | Ne | Es | Jb | Ps | Ec | Sg | |
| Is | Jr | Lm | Ec | Gn | Hs | Jl | Am | Ob | Ju | Mi | Na |
| Hb | Zp | Hg | Zc | Mt | Mk | Mt | Lk | Jn | Ac | | |
| Rm | 1Co | 2Co | Gl | Ep | Ph | Cl | 1Th | 2Th | 1Tm | 2Tm | Ti |
| Pl | Hb | Js | 1Pt | 2Pt | 1Jn | 2Jn | 3Jn | Jd | Rv | | |

VS

ACCIDENTS



Form: The overarching approach to worship.

Elements: The individual pieces of worship.

Accidents: The particular ways of expressing worship.

Scripture approaches each one of these differently. Many errors and battles occur in the church when we mix up these categories.

Basic Philosophy of Form

1. Worship is a a re-presentation of the gospel

2. Worship reflects the purposes of the gospel

Most decisions of form address a value tension

1. Structured vs Free
2. Traditional vs Contextual
3. Solemn vs Celebrative
4. Transcendent vs Accessible
5. Emotional vs Cognitive

Elements

What drives the actual elements that make up our worship service?

Not as easy as it seems. Two basic views:

1. anything ≠ forbidden (normative)
2. only what's commanded (regulative)



What elements are found in Scripture?

REGULATIVE PRINCIPLE OF WORSHIP

only those elements that are instituted or appointed by command or example or which can be deduced by good and necessary consequence from Scripture are permissible in worship

1. Reading Scripture
2. Preaching & teaching
3. Prayer
4. Corporate "Amen"
5. Giving gifts & offerings
6. Lord's Supper
7. Benediction
8. Baptism
9. Professions of faith
10. Laying on of hands
11. Fasting
12. Prayer for healing
13. Confession of sins
14. Singing of psalms, hymns, spiritual songs
15. Greetings from individuals & congregations
16. Greeting w/holy kiss
17. Rebuke for sin
18. Reconciliation for personal sin
19. Foot washing
20. Vows

Notice that though all are commanded or done in Scripture, any one service does not include all of the elements.

Accidents

How we express the elements of worship.

There is great freedom here: for example:

Confession of sin: corporate, silent, litany, song

Call to worship: scriptural, pastoral, responsive, song, etc.



We have to be careful and not mistake tradition and personal preference for Scriptural command.