Reformed Worship: How to Get the Most out of Our Liturgy
Christian Bland | 5/17/2026

I. Principles

A. The Regulative Principle of Worship

i. Apply *sola Scriptura* to worship—worship only as God commands (WCF 21.1).

ii. Scripture determines the *essential elements* of our worship (Acts 2:42).

B. The Participatory Principle of Worship

i. In the medieval church, worship was a performance, the congregation was passive.

ii. The Reformation said: the congregation needs to be active participants in worship.

C. The Dialogical Principle of Worship

i. This comes from the covenantal nature of worship.

ii. Worship is like a conversation between us and God.

II. Preparation

A. Be here!

B. Be here on time!

C. Be here, mentally!

III. Participation

A. Entering God's Presence

i. Announcements: What is the purpose? How to engage?

ii. Prelude: What is the purpose? How to engage?

iii. Call to worship: What is the purpose? How to engage?

iv. Opening song: What is the purpose? How to engage?

v. Prayer of invocation: What is the purpose? How to engage?

vi. Congregational Response of faith: What is the purpose? How to engage?

B. Renewal & Cleansing

i. Gospel Renewal: What is the purpose? How to engage?

ii. Assurance of pardon: What is the purpose? How to engage?

iii. Blessing & Greeting: What is the purpose? How to engage?

iv. Pastoral prayer: What is the purpose? How to engage?

C. The Means of Grace & Giving

i. Sermon: next week!

ii. The offering: What is the purpose? How to engage?

iii. Sacraments: What is the purpose? How to engage?

D. Closing

i. Doxology: What is the purpose? How to engage?

ii. Benediction: What is the purpose? How to engage?