
Administration of Worship at Weltevreden Chapel

This paper seeks to make concrete the relevant provisions of the Weltevreden Chapel Constitution as pertains to the administration of worship at Weltevreden Chapel.

Guiding Principles from God's Word

Weltevreden Chapel seeks to glorify God by being godly in character so as to impact others with the gospel of Christ. Godly character necessarily produces fruit in all areas of the Christian's personal life as well as the Christian community.

Eph 5:8-10: "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord."

1.1. To Find Out What Pleases the Lord

The Christian is always busy with finding out what pleases the Lord. He is God, Lord, King. With His precious blood we have been redeemed to be the people of God – a people of His own possession – a royal priesthood, a holy nation (1 Pet 2:9,10).

1.2. To Not Be of the World

The people of God are called to be in the world, but not of it (Jn 17:14,15). Holiness requires more than a practical morality in the individual, but a truly God-oriented world-view that runs against the grain of contemporary culture (Rom 12:1,2). The church must not succumb to a pragmatism that simply implements models to match the needs of the world (Jas 4:5).

The Administration of Worship

As overseers of the local body who will give an account to the Lord, the elders are responsible for shepherding the local congregation in such a way that all of worship is Christ-centred according to the commands of Scripture.

Within the local body, therefore, it is required of elders to maintain proper oversight of the worship, which, according to the Scriptures, consists of:

- Reading the word (1 Tim 4:13)
- Preaching the word (2 Tim 4:1)
- Public prayer (1 Tim 2:1-3)
- Congregational singing that proclaims the excellencies of God (Eph 5:18-20, Col 3:16, 1 Pet 2:9)
- The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper (Matt 28:19, 1 Cor 11:23-24).

1.3. Delegated Authority

The elders of the local body are directly responsible for leading worship in such a way as to point the congregation to Christ. This responsibility may be delegated at the discretion of the elders under the following principles –

1. Delegation ought to be to a faithful, responsible brother who will faithfully lead the congregation in worship.
2. The gifts of the Spirit appropriate to the service ought to be present in the brother (though this may be an opportunity to test and fan into flame those gifts).

3. This brother always remains under the authority of the elders.

1.4. In specific regard to the ordinance of baptism:

The following guidelines are in accordance with and subject to section 12.1 of the Weltevreden Chapel Constitution.

1. Elders, or one delegated according to the above principles, will be responsible for leading baptism, though it should be the regular practice that an elder fulfil this function.

1.5. In specific regard to the ordinance of the Lord's supper:

The following guidelines are in accordance with and subject to section 12.2 of the Weltevreden Chapel Constitution.

1. Elders, or one delegated according to the above principles, will be responsible for leading the Lord's supper, though it should be the regular practice that an elder fulfil this function.