



The Six Great Ends of the Church

Learning Mini-Series

DISCUSSION OUTLINE: GREAT END #3

The Maintenance of Divine Worship

Presented by The Reverend Dr. Jacob Bolton

Series Information:

This learning mini-series is sponsored by The Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington. It consists of seven videos in the “Ted Talk” presentation style. A discussion outline accompanies each of the Six Great Ends presentations. The presentations and presenters are:

- **Series Introduction:** *Rev. Dr. Rob Erickson*
- **The Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind:** *Rev. Dr. Rob Erickson*
- **The Shelter and Nurture and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God:**
Rev. Emilee Williams
- **The Maintenance of Divine Worship:** *Rev. Dr. Jacob Bolton*
- **The Preservation of the Truth:** *Rev. Becca Messman*
- **The Promotion of Social Righteousness:** *Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey*
- **The Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World:** *Rev. Dr. Raymond I. Hylton, Sr.*

Discussion Outline:

- I. What does each one of us do to maintain our spiritual life? (Participation in communal worship regularly might be one action.)
- II. “Everything we have is a blessing from God.” Do you think of worship as a response to God for these gifts? Why or why not? What else is worship?
- III. Do you find it important to worship as a group rather than individually? Why or why not?

Discussion Outline: The Maintenance of Divine Worship

- IV. How do we do it (maintain divine worship)? Become critical evaluators of worship to make it better for ALL people?
- V. List out Jacob's 4 points of how we maintain divine worship, should worship, and update it through critical evaluation of our worship. (From Shirley Guthrie)
1. Does our worship contribute to the mutual love, encouragement, and health of all members?
 2. We must avail ourselves of the new life and new truth found in the routine teaching/preaching, worship, and life of the communal church.
 3. We must remain mindful that as we worship, we help bring forth the gifts of the spirit for the sake of the church's ministry.
 4. Since we worship for the entirety of the world, we should be aware of, use, and cherish the variety of spiritual gifts that each community brings. Remember none of us has all of the gifts.
- VI. How does worship in your congregation reach these four goals? How could it be modified to make it better or closer to what God asks of our communal worship?