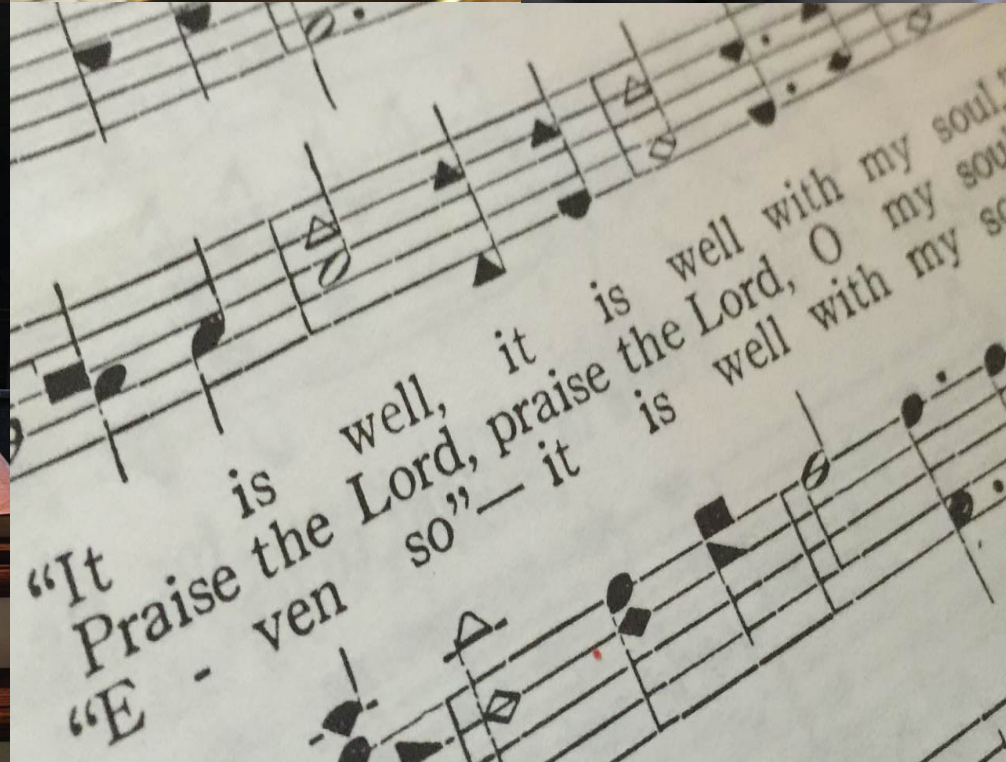


WHY DO YOU DO WHAT YOU DO?

Part 2: Guiding Principles In Biblical Worship



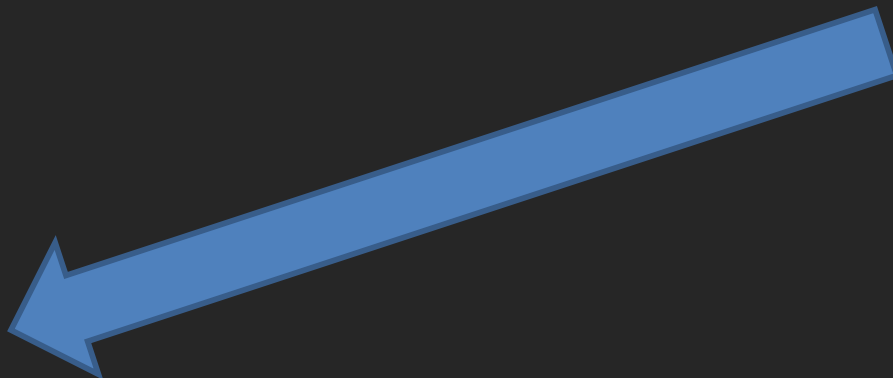
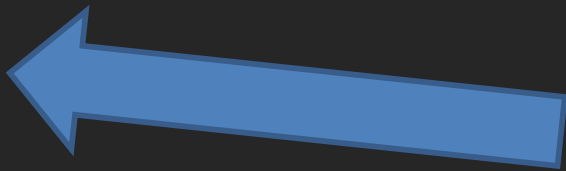
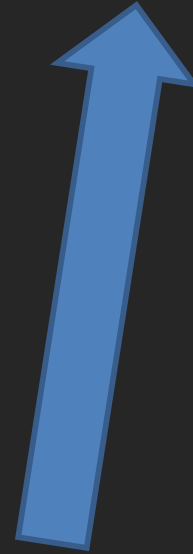


**SO WHY IS THERE SO
MUCH CONFUSION?**

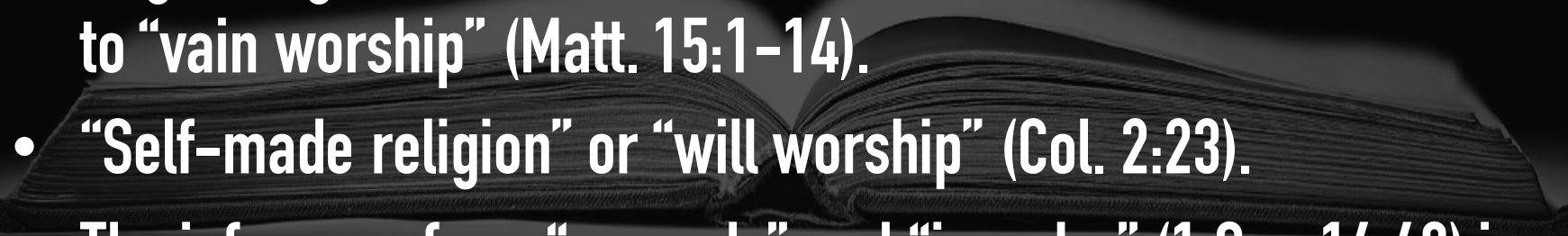


**THE REGULATIVE
PRINCIPLE**

**THE NORMATIVE
PRINCIPLE**



WHICH ONE IS BIBLICAL?

- God repeatedly stipulated that the Tabernacle and associated worship activities be done “after the pattern shown to you” (Ex. 25:40). Even the first and second commandments showed God’s particular care with regard to worship (Ex. 20:2–6).
 - Nadab and Abihu’s “strange fire” (Lev. 10).
 - Saul’s presumptuous sacrifice and condemnation in 1 Samuel 15. Remember, “to obey is better than sacrifice” (vv. 22–23).
 - Neglecting God’s commands in favor of human tradition leads to “vain worship” (Matt. 15:1–14).
 - “Self-made religion” or “will worship” (Col. 2:23).
 - The inference from “properly” and “in order” (1 Cor. 14:40) is that there must be some kind of standard to follow.
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“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

JOHN 4:23–24



**THE TRUTH IS BOTH
CONSTRAINING (1 COR. 4:6)
AND LIBERATING (JOHN 8:32).**



**SO, HOW DO WE DETERMINE WHAT
WE ARE FREE TO DO AND WHAT WE
MUST DO IN WORSHIP?**



EXPEDIENTS

- When we understand the fundamental purpose of a New Testament command or example, it helps us stay focused on obeying or emulating it. An expedient helps, never hinders, our obedience.
- For example, we are commanded to sing and make melody with our hearts. We are free to accomplish this in any way as long as we are singing and making melody with our hearts (song books, song leader, four-part harmony, new/old hymns). Pianos, rock bands, hand-clapping, etc., are fundamentally different from singing. The moment an innovation alters the heart of what we are doing, it is no longer expedient but unprofitable and improper.
- The same is true of every act of worship. Preaching (difference between an overhead projector and a silly costume) and the Lord's supper (trays or Dr. Pepper), as further examples.

DO YOU KNOW THE MIND OF GOD?

- 1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-13
- The NT was written as our guide, given by God Himself (John 16:13, Eph. 3:3ff, 1 Cor. 14:37). The person following the normative principle must believe that he knows more about God than what God has revealed. Assumption is a dangerous game, though (1 Tim. 1:3-7), and we are not left in the dark on the essentials of the apostolic pattern (Phil. 4:9).

