

true worship

extract of Proposition XI § xxvii, xxviii

§ xxvii. Finally, the great advantage of this true worship of God which we teach and practice is that it doesn't consist of human wisdom, arts, or industry, and doesn't need the glory, pomp, riches, and splendor of this world to beautify it. It is of a spiritual and heavenly nature and therefore man's natural mind and will finds it too simple and worthless, and doesn't want to stay with it because he doesn't find room there for his imagination and invention, and doesn't have the opportunity to gratify his outward and physical senses. So if this form of worship is practiced it is not likely to stay pure without the power. It is, in itself, so naked without the power that it has nothing in it to invite and tempt men to love it, unless it is accompanied by the power.

The worship of our adversaries is performed in their own wills and is *self-pleasing*, since they can freely exercise their natural abilities and invention, and (in most cases) they have some worldly outward splendor, which is pleasing to the carnal and worldly senses; and so they can pleasantly continue in it and satisfy themselves, though lacking the Spirit and Power. They do not consider the Spirit and Power in any way essential to carrying out their worship, and therefore they do not wait for it nor expect it.

§ xxviii. To conclude, the worship, preaching, praying and singing which we advocate is what proceeds from the Spirit of God and is always accompanied by its influence. It is begun by the Spirit's motion and is carried out by its power and strength, and therefore it is a purely spiritual worship such as the Scripture proclaims (John 4:23-24; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 6:18, etc.).

The worship, preaching, praying and singing which our adversaries advocate, and which we oppose, is a worship which is begun, and carried on, and concluded in man's own natural will and strength, without the motion or influence of God's spirit, which they think they need not wait for. Therefore it is true that such worship may be performed by the most wicked of men. That was the kind of worship and vain offerings which God always rejected (Isaiah 66:3; Jeremiah 14:12, etc.; Isaiah 1:13; Proverbs 15:29; John 9:31).

Source: Robert Barclay, *Apology for the True Christian Divinity*, Proposition XI § xxvii, xxviii (Glenside PA: Quaker Heritage Press, 2002) pp. 342-343; and Roberti Barclaii, *Teologiae verè Christianae apologia*, facsimile (Amsterdam: Jacob Claus, 1676) pp. 262-263.