

What is the theology of your church?

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There are basically two ways to answer this question: by what we claim/teach and by what we do. I am interested in both, but in this article, I focus on how our actions reflect our beliefs and thus take precedence over our claims.

I recently attended Sunday morning worship at a church as a visitor.

As a visitor, I had time for reflection. The service began with a song, allowing people to be seated.

The first item was a call to worship with Scripture and a thoughtful comment, all very brief because the call to worship was primarily a prayer to bring us into God's presence. "Thank you God for you...."

The opening prayer caught my attention because it did not sound like most of the public prayers I hear.

It was about God, it centered on God. It was about God's spiritual actions, not about the periphery of life. (I recognize that God provides everything, but especially on Sunday morning I want to reflect on our sense of holiness and develop awareness of spiritual blessings). "Thank you, God, for giving us the desire to be here," was a reflection of the Psalms. The prayer focused on what God could and would do in our world, in the church, for the sick. The focus was imminently spiritual, that is, it spoke of spiritual realities.

The communion talk was based on a biblical text, focusing on how little we are compared to God and Jesus. By their words, those who participated publicly in leading the worship evidenced a life of living in God's word—amazing!

Questions

What would people conclude about the theology of your church by listening to the public statements, prayers, and communion talk?

How visible is God in your church?

How visible is God's word in your church?