



Theology & Worship Entrance Exam Study Guide

The Ph.D. Entrance Exam in Apologetics and Culture will consist of essay questions in two parts, each part approximately 3 hours in length.

The exam will be closed book, so you will not be allowed to use any resources other than the writing instruments you bring with you and the writing paper and instructional materials that will be provided in your exam folder.

Applicants are expected to be prepared to write for 90 minutes on any of the following questions. Essays will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Relevance and Argumentation

- Students should give careful attention to the question and outline refined arguments. Student should incorporate & critically interact with relevant resources related to the field.

Writing Mechanics

- Students' responses should be intelligent, and precise. Reasonable arrangement of paragraphs and ideas should enhance a reader's understanding. Responses should be focused, and vocabulary varied. Responses should contain very few grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

Awareness of Relevant Scholarship

- Students should show awareness of seminal sources, major figures and pivotal events related to the field and incorporate and properly interact with resources related to the question.

Reading List:

Jeremy Begbie, *Resounding Truth: Christian Wisdom in the World of Music*

John Frame, *Worship in Spirit and Truth*

Justin S. Holcomb and David A. Johnson, eds. *Christian Theologies of the Sacraments: A Comparative Introduction*

John Hammett, *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches* (2019 edition)

David Peterson, *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship.*

J. Pinson, ed., *Perspectives on Worship: Five Views.*

Thomas Schreiner and Shawn Wright, eds., *Believer's Baptism*

Thomas Schreiner and Matthew Crawford, eds., *The Lord's Supper*

James K. A. Smith, *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*

Calvin R. Stapert. *A New Song for an Old World*

Questions:

1. Build a basic theology of corporate (local church) worship, with reference especially to (a) any biblical principles which apply; (b) which ordinances and elements should be part a regular corporate worship service; and (c) expectations for worship leaders.
2. Build a basic theology of individual worship, with reference to (1) the nature of worship “in spirit and truth” (John 4:24), (2) making a “living sacrifice” (Romans 12:1), and (3) spiritual disciplines and devotional practices
3. Build a basic theology for the use of *music* in worship. What models does the Bible give us for the use of *music* in worship? What role(s) does worship music serve in corporate worship today? Explain how contemporary practice and biblical models relate to one another.
4. Provide a treatment of the culturally contextual and potentially cross-cultural nature of corporate worship. How does cultural context affect corporate worship? How does your understanding of Christian worship interface international cultures, or even sub-cultures in your own home city, state, or country. Explain where there is continuity and discontinuity across cultures in Christian worship.
5. Provide a treatment on unity and diversity in relationship to stylistic decisions for corporate worship practices, including music selection. Contrast the concept of a unified

“heart language” with the inclusion of both chronological diversity and diversity across contemporary cultures (and subcultures) in your response.

6. Describe the function of liturgy in Christian worship historically, and the way(s) in which it is still significant today. Articulate your understanding of liturgy, and argue either for or against its importance/presence in Christian worship today.
7. Describe and evaluate the regulative and normative principles, in reference to their origin in church history, their biblical basis, their place in Baptist history, and their application to contemporary worship.
8. Articulate a biblical theology of baptism *or* the Lord’s Supper and show how that theology should be reflected in our practice of these ordinances as acts of worship.
9. Provide a brief history of the development of Christian worship through church history, including the debates about the use of music in worship which have occurred from the patristic period up until the contemporary period.