

EDITORIAL:

THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

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‘Theology’ is the study of God and of God's relation to the world. ‘Worship’ is derived from the Old English ‘weorþscape’, meaning ‘honour shown to an object’, which has been understood as ‘worthiness’ or ‘worth-ship’ in the sense of giving, at its simplest, value to something. Studying and knowing God more deeply (theology) should inexorably lead to worship. Knowledge and worship are inseparable fallouts of a good theology. Thus, theology is expected to deepen worship. Theology not only reflects and defines a belief system but also fosters the liturgical life of a worshipping assembly. This is particularly true since while the law of prayer fixes the law of faith (*lex orandi lex credendi*), faith seeks to be understood through theology (*fides quaerens intellectum*). Catholic theology is so practical that it must lead to active participation in worship. Divine worship is God acting to bring his life to humanity and to get humanity to participate in his life.

The idea of worship is not *simpliciter* an activity of assembling together in a holy place, singing choruses in common and listening to a preaching. While these activities may foster worshipfulness, the act of worship itself is much more than an activity. Worship is the deeper and transcendent connection between God’s heart and the heart of a believer. Christian worship specifically involves God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and

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through whom man responds to God by, among other things, joyfully ascribing all praise and honour, glory and power to the triune God. In Christian worship, man recognizes God present in the world and in his life. In Christianity, worship is the act of attributing reverent honour and homage to God.

If theology is the attempt to know God more deeply, and if this means that theology at its best leads to deeper devotion to the object of knowledge, greater personal transformation, and more effective ministry in the Church, then theology is a facility for divine worship even when brawling with questions where it is not entirely obvious how they connect to everyday experience. Theology helps one to understand, reflect and often reevaluate how one is relating with God. Surely, being able to improve on one's relationship with God and with human beings is the best outcome that one could hope for as a result of doing theology. God's self-existence, creative power, and divine providence over all things provide the basis for a Christian worldview and theology, which should flow into how Christians worship (*cultus*) and, indeed, the entirety of how they live (culture). True worship of God is when we love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, prizing God above everything else and placing him first in our hearts. Deeper knowledge of God through theology cannot be the cause of any effect other than true worship of God.