

Questions on Fee, Chapter 13:

Worship and the Holy Spirit

1. Fee, after listing some of the idiosyncrasies of the Pentecostal worship he grew up with, says, “at this point we got it absolutely right” (153). How did they get it right?
2. Fee says that “life in Christ [is] a life of joy” (153, 1st par.). Paul includes joy with the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22), as an aspect of Christlikeness. Ps 16:11 says, “You show me the path of life. *In your presence there is fullness of joy*; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore,” in keeping with a theme in Psalms associating joy with God’s presence and worship (Ps 21:6; 45:15; 47:1; 71:23; etc.). According to Fee, how do the gifts relate to the joy expressed in worship?
3. Listen to Fee’s second lecture on Worship, 18:18-22:30. What does Fee envision by joy in worship? In his two extremes, the emotionless worship of some mainline churches, and the empty froth of some Pentecostal churches, what is being done wrong, and how would it be remedied?
4. Having made a case for the importance of worship and the Spirit’s centrality in worship, Fee spends the rest of the chapter discussing Paul’s instructions to believers in these passages:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts **sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs** to God. (Col 3:16)

...be filled with the Spirit, **as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs** among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 5:18b-20)

When you come together, **each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation**. Let all things be done for building up. (1 Cor 14:26)

Fee draws several implications from these passages, including the following:

- a) The diversity of activities and participants demonstrates (along with the rest of 1 Cor 14) “the free, spontaneous nature of worship in Paul’s churches” (154, bottom). (Free but not chaotic.)
- b) They show that worship is not directed only toward God, but also toward one another in community (so “teaching and admonishing” in Col 3:16).
- c) They show that “all” present contributed to worship.

Listen to Fee’s Worship lecture, 22:30-33:30; 37:04-37:50. When Fee says Pauline worship was spontaneous while being Spirit-led and not a “free for all,” what might this have looked like? What, from this clip, would be the result of worship without this sort of participation by most of the members?

5. The picture given here of Pauline house-church worship¹ is one in which the Spirit orchestrates ministry in which the bulk of the members are participating, and communication is directed both

¹ Remember that the architecture and custom of the day meant that these house churches were generally about the size of our small groups, and the largest “large group” meetings would have had at most ~50 in attendance, and only that if an atrium were packed full.

toward God (praise, prayer) and toward one another (preaching, prophecy, etc.). As Fee puts it, “prayer (and song and tongues according to 1 Cor 14:2 and 15) is directed toward God; and prophesying represents the many forms of speech—especially Spirit-inspired speech—that are directed toward the people of God to edify them (1 Cor 14:3, 16)...” (155, par. 3). In contrast,

...the uniqueness of Reformed worship is that we perceive worship as a group conversation with God... To be sure, worshipers enjoy fellowship and speak with each other, but such horizontal actions are clearly secondary to the action on the vertical plane between the worshiper and God.²

How can we re-envision Pauline worship in a way which incorporates this Reformed perspective? Must the “horizontal” ministry of Paul’s many mutual edification passages be relegated to our small groups (of which, remember, only about 25% of our church are members!).

2 Norma de Waal Malefyt and Howard Vanderwell, “The Pattern of a Worship Service,” Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, <http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/the-pattern-of-a-worship-service-bible-study/>, retrieved 4/27/2014.