



WHAT'S THE CHURCH ALL ABOUT?

Part 007 - Form and Function - A biblical View

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I. FORM AND FUNCTION ILLUSTRATED

Function = an activity that needs to be performed
Form = the method chosen to carry out the function

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GETTING FOOD

How do you decide which is the best form for you?

- Some of the factors for the decision come from internal sources, such as abilities and preferences. Do you have a good eye and don't mind being alone for long periods of time? Then you might do better as a hunter. If not, stick with farming.
- Some of the factors are external, depending on your environment. Do you live on or near good productive land? If so, you might do well to be a farmer.
- Some of the factors are cultural, depending on the ideas of the society you are in. Are farmers prized because they add to the amount of crops in the village, or are hunters prized for their skill in case of war?
- Some of the factors may be moral. Is the killing of animals looked upon as immoral?
- Another factor is tradition. What did your parents and their parents do?

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I. FORM AND FUNCTION IN THE CHURCH

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I. FORM AND FUNCTION IN THE CHURCH

A. Church Functions

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I. FORM AND FUNCTION IN THE CHURCH

A. Church Functions

QUESTION:

Can you come up with some examples of Church Functions?

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I. FORM AND FUNCTION IN THE CHURCH

B. Church Forms

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I. FORM AND FUNCTION IN THE CHURCH

B. Church Forms

QUESTION:

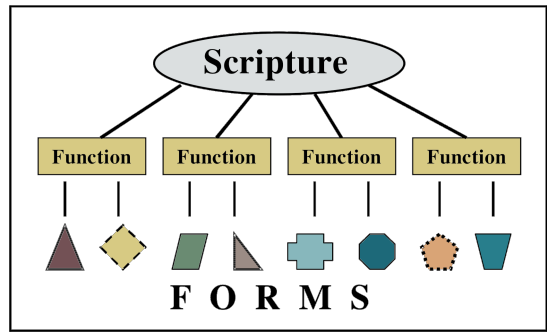
Can you come up with some examples of Church FORMS?

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I. FORM AND FUNCTION IN THE CHURCH

C. Form and Function Together

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Question:

Can you think of some functions that have different forms in different cultures / times in history?

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III. EVALUATING FORM AND FUNCTION IN THE CHURCH

Table - Forms and Functions

Biblical Function	Possible Form
Prayer	Keeling or Standing
	Silently or Aloud
	Small Group or Individual
	Before Meal or at close of Service
	Confession or Supplication
Teaching the Word	Sermon
	Small Groups
	Bible Study
Evangelise	Family Devotions
	Friendship Evangelism
	Crusades
	Altar Call in Service

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Function Vs Form

Function	Form
Give	
Worship	

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Forms Vs Functions

Function	Form
	Youth Camp
	Church Prayer Meeting
	Church Choir
	Passing an Offering Round
	Church Buildings
	Music in Services
	Kid's Church
	Church order of service
	Reading Poetry in Church

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PRINCIPLES REGARDING FORM AND FUNCTION

A. The Function Is More Important Than the Form

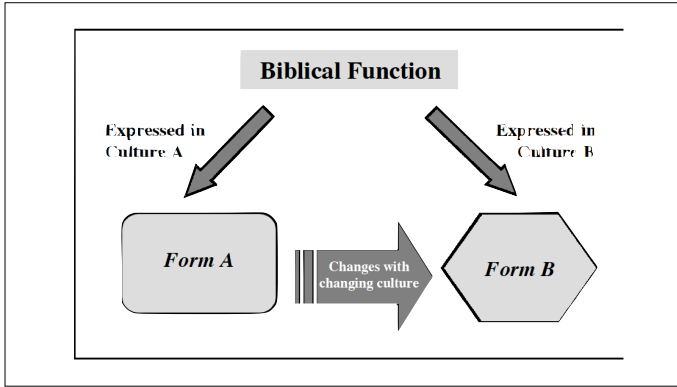
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PRINCIPLES REGARDING FORM AND FUNCTION

A. The Function Is More Important Than the Form

B. Functions Are Absolute and Trans-Cultural; Forms Are Non-Absolute and Variable

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QUESTION:
How would this principle affect the way you develop forms in your church, based on Scripture?

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PRINCIPLES REGARDING FORM AND FUNCTION

- The Function Is More Important Than the Form
- Functions Are Absolute and Trans-Cultural; Forms Are Non-Absolute and Variable
- People Often Identify More with the Forms Than with the Function

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Question:
Can you think of some forms people get attached to?

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PRINCIPLES REGARDING FORM AND FUNCTION

- The Function Is More Important Than the Form
- Functions Are Absolute and Trans-Cultural; Forms Are Non-Absolute and Variable
- People Often Identify More with the Forms Than with the Function
- Forms Should Not Be Changed Carelessly

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PRINCIPLES REGARDING FORM AND FUNCTION

- The Function Is More Important Than the Form
- Functions Are Absolute and Trans-Cultural; Forms Are Non-Absolute and Variable
- People Often Identify More with the Forms Than with the Function
- Forms Should Not Be Changed Carelessly
- When Forms Freeze, Churches Die

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IMPLICATIONS OF FORM AND FUNCTION

- Biblical function is what must be done—it was given by God and should not be altered.
- Biblical form is how we do the function—it is cultural and should be adjusted as needed

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QUESTIONS

Do the forms in your church experience serve a purpose / biblical function?

Which forms are a hindrance to bringing the Gospel to the lost? To bringing a new convert into the life of the church?

In what ways are your forms strange and foreign to new converts?

How could you develop forms that would be more comfortable to new converts without compromising biblical principles? Describe how these forms are relevant to your target group culture in worship, fellowship, sacraments, tithing, and biblical instruction

When are forms sinful? Why? Give examples and validate with a biblical principle.

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