

# Contents

Preface	xi
1. Orientation	1
<i>The Purpose of This Book</i>	1
<i>Where I Am Coming From</i>	2
<i>What Is CWM?</i>	5
<i>CWM and Contemporary Worship</i>	8
2. A Theology of Worship: Some Basics	12
<i>God's Transcendence and Immanence</i>	12
<i>God-Centered Worship</i>	15
<i>The Rules for Worship</i>	16
<i>Human Creativity in Worship</i>	16
<i>Communication</i>	17
<i>The Great Commission</i>	20
<i>The Unity and Variety of the Church</i>	23
<i>The Nature of Nurture</i>	26
<i>Conclusion</i>	28
3. Some Obvious Virtues of CWM	30
<i>God-Centeredness</i>	31
<i>Scripturality</i>	32
<i>Freshness and Communication</i>	40
4. The Case <i>Against</i> CWM	43
<i>A Historical Perspective</i>	44
<i>Contemporary Worship</i>	47
<i>The Critique of Contemporary Worship</i>	48
<i>Contemporary Worship and CWM</i>	49
<i>The Concerns of the Critics</i>	51

5. CWM and Modern Culture	55
<i>Likeness and Unlikeness</i>	55
<i>Culture Is Not Neutral</i>	56
<i>Entertainment</i>	59
6. CWM and the Bottom Line	63
<i>CWM, the Business</i>	63
<i>CWM and the Business of the Church</i>	66
<i>The Church Growth Movement</i>	68
<i>Marketing</i>	71
<i>Pragmatism</i>	72
7. Is CWM Authentically Christian?	75
<i>Emphasis and Substance</i>	78
<i>God in CWM: A Rock Star?</i>	81
<i>Reverence and Joy</i>	85
<i>Jollification</i>	86
<i>Is CWM Orthodox?</i>	87
8. Does CWM Edify?	90
<i>The Subjective and Objective in Worship</i>	90
<i>Does CWM Nurture Christian Character?</i>	93
<i>Seekers</i>	94
9. Does CWM Dumb Down Worship?	98
<i>The Intellect and Worship</i>	99
<i>Worship as Personal Encounter</i>	105
10. Quality	107
<i>Different Kinds of Quality</i>	107
<i>Is CWM Postmodern?</i>	109
<i>Quality and the Critics</i>	115
<i>Repetition</i>	121
<i>Some Problems in CWM</i>	125
11. Tradition and Contemporaneity	129
<i>Scripture and Tradition</i>	132
<i>Traditionalism and Theological Method</i>	133
<i>The Place of Tradition According to Scripture</i>	134
<i>Is CWM Untraditional?</i>	136
<i>Denominationalism</i>	138

*Contents*

ix

<i>Tradition and Reformation</i>	141
<i>Dealing with Our Emotions</i>	142
12. My CWM Song Book	145
Appendix 1: Review of Marva Dawn, <i>Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down</i>	155
<i>Dumbing Down</i>	156
<i>Rising Above the Worship Wars?</i>	157
<i>Songs of Substance</i>	159
<i>Worship That Nurtures</i>	161
<i>Hunting Heresy in CWM</i>	165
<i>Narcissism?</i>	167
<i>Fairness in Debate</i>	171
Appendix 2: <i>Sola Scriptura</i> in Theological Method	175
<i>Biblicism</i>	176
<i>Sola Scriptura at Westminster Theological Seminary</i>	181
<i>Westminster's Theological Creativity</i>	183
<i>Some Epistemological Observations</i>	186
<i>Sola Scriptura and Evangelical Intellectualism</i>	187
<i>An Evangelical Critique of Culture</i>	189
<i>Confessionalism</i>	196
<i>Conclusions</i>	198
Index of Scripture	203
Index of Songs	207
Index of Names	209