



“To great sections of the church, the art of worship has been lost entirely, and in its place has come that strange and foreign thing called “the program”. This word has been borrowed from the stage and applied with sad wisdom to the type of public service which now passes for worship among us.” - A. W. Tozer

What do you need to worship God? Do you need the right kind of music or the right atmosphere? Do you find it easier to worship God when everyone else around you is worshipping?

These are all questions that each of us must answer and investigate. However, a much more important question is, “How does God want me to worship Him?” and, “What has God actually said about worshipping Him?”

This is what we must endeavor to understand. Worship in the presence of the God of the universe is a breath-taking experience that leaves the worshiper full of God’s glory and joy, but we must never forget one important truth. Worship is not about you...It is about God.

As a secular musician, I can testify to the fact that people react to music in blissful and euphoric ways. Even the most secular music can change people’s emotional state. Therefore, it is extremely

important that we not get lost in the “feelings” of worship without staying tied to the truth of God revealed in Scripture.

This is not to say that experiencing God emotionally in worship is a bad thing. On the contrary, it is a very good thing. But we cannot lose sight of who we are worshipping simply because we feel good when we worship.

There is a very delicate balance that must be drawn between worshipping in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24).

When is Worship Not Really Worship?

- 1. When we just go through the motions** - True worship is never done simply because it is the ritual we do every Sunday. When the Pharisees were angry at Jesus for not ritually washing His hands, he said, "Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me" (Mark 7:6). Worship is



not a state of mind that falls out of the sky onto us. It is a decision. We decide to focus on God and give Him adoration. Worship is not a hypnotic state brought on by the beat of the music. It is a choice. We choose to focus on God and offer Him our adoration, whether we receive anything or not.

2. When it's all about me -

Worshippers never go into a service asking the question, "What am I going to get out of this?" Many people listen to Christian radio simply because it makes them feel better and they call that worship. Worship is not focused on us, it is God-centered.

3. When it's not reflected in

Obedience - True worshippers desire to follow God's commands. The Bible shows us that God does not accept worship from those who do not desire to obey. Jeremiah 7:9-11 says, "Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name and say We are

"The whole person, with all his senses, with both mind and body, needs to be involved in genuine worship."

Jerry Kerns

delivered to do all these abominations? Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD." An intentional lack of obedience to God indicates that we are not truly worshipping God with all our lives.

Worship must be in Truth and in Spirit.



1 John 4:20

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

The Obedience of True Worship

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the people, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matt. 5:23-24).

Jesus was telling them that bringing God a sacrifice or an offering was not enough. One must live in obedience to God's commands if his gift was to be accepted by God.

For example, if a person brings God the sacrifice of praise and worship (Heb. 13:15), and he realizes that he has wronged his brother, he should leave his gift, go and be reconciled, and then return to offer his praise.

Of course, this doesn't mean that only perfect people can worship God. It means that true worship is always accompanied by the realization that God is holy and He is worthy of being obeyed.

A life of worship is one that gives God praise, adoration, AND obedience.

How Are We To Worship?

I. Worship With Your Posture

"And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up" (Neh. 8:5).

One of the Old Testament words for worship (הָוָה - hawa) means "to bow down." Likewise, a New Testament word for worship (προσκυνεω proskuneo), means "to bow down."

Throughout Scripture, there are four major postures of worship in the Bible:

1. Standing -

demonstrating respect, honor, and a desire to meet God.

2. Bowing (Body or the Head)- demonstrating humility, surrender, and a desire to hear from God

3. Kneeling - demonstrating reverence, submission, and pleading requests or declaring commitment to God

4. Prostrate - demonstrating extreme humility, submission, and seeking God's mercy.

II. Worship With Your Voice

"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Heb. 13:15).

Singing is the primary expression of worship in the Bible (over 200 references.) In addition to this, the words "speak" or "shout" occur in the context of worship more than 50 times.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth:

make a loud noise, and rejoice and sing praise. Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a Psalm" (Ps. 98:4-5)

Saints are described as fearing the name of God; they are reverent worshippers; they stand in awe of the Lord's authority; they are afraid of offending Him; they feel their own nothingness in the sight of the Infinite One.

Charles Spurgeon

III. Worship With Your Hands

"O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph" (Ps. 47:1).

"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy

hands, without wrath and doubting" (1 Ti. 2:8).

Scripture also exhorts us to lift our hands in worship:

-to express need (Ps. 28:2)

-in response to God's word (Ps. 119:48)

-in praise of God's greatness (Ps. 63:4, 134:2)

-as a sacrifice of praise (Ps. 141:2)

-as an expression of desire (Ps. 88:9)

Worshipping with our bodies as well as our hearts and souls places us in a vulnerable position and helps prepare our minds for adoration of God.

"Worship leader George Beverly Shea once kidded Billy Graham that the he would be unemployed in Heaven -- while Shea would still have a job leading worship."





“Sometimes I go to God and say, “God, if Thou dost never answer another prayer while I live on this earth, I will still worship Thee as long as I live and in the ages to come for what Thou hast done already. God’s already put me so far in debt that if I were to live one million millenniums I couldn’t pay Him for what He’s done for me.”

— [A.W. Tozer](#)

Worship With Your Life

Not only are we to worship God with our hearts, minds, souls, and bodies...we are to worship God with our talents and abilities as well. Psalm 150:3-4 says, “Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.”

Each of us has talents and skills. These were given by God so that we might use them to worship and glorify Him. Col. 3:17 says, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

Whatever we can do, we are to do that to worship and glorify God. What has God given you?

Worship With Your Giving

Have you ever thought of tithing and giving an offering as worship? Money (either its abundance or lack) presents the greatest opportunity for men to engage in idolatry. Indeed, the love of money is the root of all evil.

Notice how the wise men worshiped Jesus. “And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down,

and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh” (Matt. 2:11).

In the OT, worship centered around the offering of sacrifice to God. The animals sacrificed were either purchased specifically for offering, or they were taken from the families own possessions.

We will discuss tithing in another lesson, however, we cannot skip the fact that sacrificially giving to God is indeed a vital part of worship. It is not that God needs our money, or that He cannot support His people without it. God is the King of the universe and needs nothing.

The point is that we must trust God with everything we are. Our giving, or our lack of giving shows more about what we worship than anything else. Where we spend the most is usually what we prize the most in our lives.

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” - Matt. 6:21

Study Questions

1. What would your expression be if:

Your football team just won the championship, you were just given a new car, you just inherited a million dollars?

2. What is your most common expression of worship?

3. Do you think that posture is important in worship? Why or why not?

4. Have you ever shouted for joy about anything? When and why?

5. What is the difference between applause and clapping you hands in worship?

6. To whom should applause be directed in worship? Who often is applauded in worship services?

7. What role does “giving” play in your worship toward God? An important part, not so important, or not at all?

8. If you stand before God today, would He be pleased with all of your worship and praise? If not, what should you do to correct this?

