

WORSHIP THE LORD

I. OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO WORSHIP GOD.

- A. (1 Chr 16:29 KJV) Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
 - 1. Motive of giving, not just receiving.
 - 2. Ministering to the Lord--that which is due Him.
- B. (Psa 99:9 KJV) Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.
- C. God created us to worship Him.

II. VARIOUS DEFINITIONS OF WORSHIP.

- A. ***Worship is the expression of the heart.***
 - 1. Releases God's people in an uninhibited expression of their inner selves.
 - 2. Whatever form we worship should be with all our hearts.
- B. ***Worship is the expression of love.***
 - 1. Expression of love, adoration, and praise to God with an attitude and acknowledgment of his supremacy and Lordship.
 - 2. The heart of true worship is the unashamed pouring out of our inner self upon the Lord Jesus Christ in affectionate devotion.
 - 3. Worship is extravagant love and extreme obedience.
 - 4. Worship comes from Greek word proskuneo, (pros-koo-neh'-o) which means to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand.
- C. ***Worship is a function of the Spirit.***
 - 1. Worship is fundamentally the spirit within us contacting the Spirit of God.
 - 2. (Psa 42:7 KJV) Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

III. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRAISE AND WORSHIP.

- A. ***Praise is an outward testimony; Worship is an attitude of the heart.***
 - 1. Praise is always seen or heard; worship is not always evident to an observer.
 - 2. The outward forms of praise and worship are often identical.
 - a. Shouting, clapping, singing, dancing can be used in worship.
 - b. But worship can also transpire without any outward activity, whereas praise is always characterized by some form of physical manifestation.
- B. ***Praise can sometimes be distant, but worship is usually intimate.***
 - 1. Drunkards witness to one another.
 - 2. Jesus said the rocks would cry out if his disciples did not praise him (Lu. 19:40).
 - a. Rocks do not have a relationship with God; no interaction of personalities.
 - b. Therefore, rocks cannot worship God.
 - 3. Relationship is a requirement for worship. It brings us close to the heart of God.

- C. ***There are times when our worship will not constitute the forming of words and phrases.***
1. Humble prostration of our souls before God, revering his greatness in silence and stillness.
 2. Worship frequently functions very similarly to marital love, which does not always need to be verbalized in order to be expressed or appreciated.
- D. ***Praise is largely horizontal, while worship is primarily a vertical interaction.***
1. Horizontally, we speak to one another and we declare his praise before each other.
 2. Praise does have some vertical functions; worship is purely vertical.
- E. ***Praise is often preparatory to worship.***
1. Praise can be perceived as a gateway to worship.
 2. We sing in order to enter into praise, and sometimes we praise in order to enter into worship.
 3. Music is a catalyst for worship; music is an aid to worship.
 - a. It in no way guarantees or even denotes worship.
 - b. Worship is not a musical activity but a function of the heart.
- F. ***Worship is not necessarily superior to praise.***
1. Sometimes it is appropriate to remain at praise for a period of time or to bring a service to an apex by concluding with high praise.
 2. Some services will begin with worship and end with a glorious sound of praise.
 3. Get focus off the mechanics and concentrate on pleasing the Lord by simply expressing our love to him.

IV. WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH (JOHN 4:20-24).

- A. ***The time cometh.***
1. ***The Samaritan Woman.*** (John 4:20 KJV) Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.
 2. ***Jesus.*** (John 4:21 KJV) Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.
 - a. ***Ignorant Worship.*** (John 4:22 KJV) Ye worship ye know not what:
 - b. ***Knowledgeable Worship.*** We know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.
 - c. ***Worship in Spirit and in Truth.*** (John 4:23 KJV) But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (John 4:24 KJV) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
- B. ***Worship not bound to locality.*** Jesus was showing that worship would no longer be bound to a certain time or place (neither in Jerusalem, where the Jews worshiped, nor Mount Gerizim, where the Samaritans worshiped).

- C. ***A change in worship.***
1. Jesus knew the time was shortly to come when Mosaic sacrifices at Jerusalem would be outdated.
 2. Worship would occur within the New Testament temple, man himself.

V. **WORSHIP IN SPIRIT.**

- A. ***Function of the Spirit.*** Worship was going to become a function of the spirit of man reaching out to the Spirit of God.
1. As a function of the spirit, true worship is more than just an outward ritual.
 2. Worship is our spirit corresponding with God's Spirit.
- B. ***Old Covenant represented outward ceremonies.*** Under the old covenant, worship was a series of outward ceremonies that did not necessarily involve the heart response of the participants.
1. Is 29:13. These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.
 2. Under the new covenant, our worship becomes more than merely the mouthing of empty cliches but can be the upright expression of a pure heart.
- C. ***Worship enhanced through the Holy Spirit.*** Jesus further showed that our worship would be greatly enhanced through the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
1. The Holy Spirit is an integral part of our worship.
 2. When we praise, the Holy Spirit begins to stir our hearts, and we become more conscious of God's presence.
 - a. His presence never comes and goes; we are the ones who change.
 - b. Our awareness of his presence changes.
- D. ***Worship is not always a response to the presence of God.***
1. There are times when we feel very far from God, and yet we need to worship him.
 2. Ex: Abraham offering up Isaac. "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship (Gen. 22:5).
- E. ***We sometimes need to plunge into praise with an aggressiveness.***
1. Our spirit is willing to worship, but our flesh is weak and reluctant.
 2. Since praise is expressed through the flesh, it requires a stirring up of the flesh.
 3. Since worship is more a function of the spirit; what is needed is not a stirring up of the flesh but an unlocking of the spirit.

VI. **WORSHIP IN TRUTH.**

- A. ***Worship according to knowledge--not just feeling.***
1. Ignorant worship: "You Samaritans worship what you do not know."
 2. Intelligent worship: "We worship what we do know."
- B. ***Worshiping in truth means that worshiping must involve the mind.*** (Mat 22:37 KJV) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
- C. ***Worshiping in truth must be through Jesus Christ, who is the truth.***
1. (John 14:6 KJV) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:

no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

2. (John 15:26 KJV) But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

3. Must keep our focus on Jesus.

D. *True worship is to be distinguished from hypocritical worship--putting on a good "front."*

E. *Worshiping in truth means we are to worship out of a heart that is true to God.*

1. With a life that displays truth and purity.

2. Worshiping with integrity.

F. *We worship in accordance with the truth of God's word.*

It is not enough to worship in sincerity; we must also worship in truth.

Millions worship in sincerity, but they do not worship according to the revealed truth of God in his word.

Muslims worship Allah, believing they are worshiping the one true God.

We can know we are a worshiper of the true God by getting to know him through the Scriptures.

Worship flows out of relationship.

Our relationship with God is strengthened by learning of him through his word.

Our worship is no higher than our knowledge of God.

The more we know Him, the more meaningful will be our worship.

WORSHIP SONGS.

I Worship You--Almighty God.

I Worship and Adore You

Worthy, You Are Worthy

Father We Love You

Lord Jesus I Love You