

## Our Worship

**Deuteronomy 10:20-21**

**John 4:23-24**

**As we come together, are we worshipping God? Are we worshipping as He desires? Why do we come to worship? Do we worship God?**

**What is the definition of worship? In the OT of the Bible, it says worship is bowing down, humbling ourselves, showing reverence. The NT uses words such as: adoring, being devoted, kissing, paying homage, and bowing down. It involves humbling and submitting oneself to another, which should be God.**

**Before we can talk about what worship is, we need to discuss what worship is not. It is not a spectator sport or a performance for human approval; we are to be pleasing God, not men. Worship is not a meeting of equals because God is God and we are His children, not His peers. It is not a way to earn God's blessings, we have no right to ask God to bless us for going to church. Worship is not a substitute for repentance since worship will not absolve us of the responsibility to obey God's commands; if you have not repented of your sins and in turn obey God, then I would wonder what you**

**are doing in church other than taking up space. Worship is not a series of human traditions, it is not singing, reading Scripture, taking communion, it is not formality, doctrine, etc. Worship is not for our entertainment or for self-gratification, and is not based on our needs or wishes. Worship is not just listening to a sermon or a form of meditation.**

**Okay, since we have heard what worship is not, then what is worship? It is bowing the soul before God, it is an adoring contemplation of God. It is objective and it is being taken up with God and not our needs. Worship is a time to put God first, just as we are told in Deuteronomy 10: "have reverence for the Lord and worship only Him." Worship is a time to remember who we are: Galatians 1: 3-5 tell us that Christ set us free by His sacrifice for our sins and has released us from the curse of sin. It is a time to remember where we are going and that is to heaven; it is a time to encourage each other and help each other every day as God commands. Worship involves action as Romans 12 says: present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God and this is the reasonable worship which God desires from us. It must be from the heart, it must be true and sincere. Worship must be done in the Spirit and in Truth, just as we are told in John**

**4:23-24: “the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God’s Spirit, people will worship the Father as He really is, offering Him the true worship that He wants. God is Spirit, and only by the power of His Spirit can people worship Him as He really is.”** Worship must have a dual focus: first, and foremost, focused on God; secondly, exhortation of fellow believers, just as Hebrews 10 tells us: encourage one another all the more. Worship should be our humble attempt to give glory and praise which is due to God. It is an expression of our faith and extends from our feelings of gratitude and respect for God.

**Whom are we to worship? It is not men, angels, money or things; in Micah 5, we are told not to worship the works of our hands and in Matthew, we are to worship the Lord our God only. We are to worship the Father God, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.**

**Why do we worship God? Because it is our duty to worship God, it is a command throughout the OT and the NT: worship the Lord your God, and Him only. God seeks for us to worship Him, and worship pleases God more than anything else we could ever do.**

**How are we to worship God? John 4 tells us to worship Him in spirit and in truth; in other words: we are to worship inwardly with the proper heart attitude and in consistency with the revealed Scripture and centered on the “Word made flesh” Who ultimately revealed His Father. We are to humble ourselves to God’s will and renew our mind; we are to worship decently and in harmony because God is a God of peace, harmony, order, and clarity; therefore our worship should be the same. Our worship should be with reverence and godly fear, and should be for praising and thanking Him; in the OT this is referred to as the fruit of the lips or sacrifices of the lips.**

**Worship can, and should, include a combination of the following actions: singing, in Colossians we are told to teach each other in Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Actions include praying, giving, instruction in the Word, it is to include The Lord’s Supper, fellowship since collective and corporate worship is a vital part of spiritual life, and it must include Christian living and Christian conduct.**

**The psalmist David wrote: “I will call upon the Lord, Who is worthy to be praised”, just before he says this, David lists the reasons God is worthy: God is his rock, fortress, deliverer,**

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**strength, shield, stronghold and the horn of his salvation. Worship is tied to worth, therefore the question becomes, is God only worthy on Sunday mornings? Do the reasons David mentioned that make God worthy go away when we leave church, or is He worthy to be worshipped because He is always our rock, redeemer, and so on?**

**The answer is yes—God is always worthy.**

**Worship is God's way of giving us an opportunity to divert our attention from our own concerns and problems, to the way things are in heaven. Constant worship is happening right now around God's throne, are we always worshipping Him? Our worship should be never-ending, always on-going.**

**In heaven angels are praising, choirs are singing, lightning is flashing, thunder is rolling, saints are rejoicing, there is a constant procession up and down the golden streets, to and from God's throne.**

**So as we come to worship, are we worshipping God? Are we worshipping as He desires? Those are questions we have to answer on an individual basis and on a congregational basis.**

**The answers to those questions need to be obtained and fleshed out by weighing them against the results of true worship, which includes: does our worship bring joy to God, does it satisfy God the Father, are we as worshippers satisfied, does the worship empty us of self or ego, and does our worship make more room for God?**

**To God Be The Glory.**

**AMEN.**