

Basics: A Study of Worship I

- We use various expressions when we refer to worship!
“What time is the Magnolia worship service?”
“We had a great worship service at church today?”
“It’s great when we can worship together as a church family!”
- So, what do we mean when we say these things and more importantly what does scripture teach us about the true description and meaning of Christian worship?
- It can be rightly said that everything in life is an act of worship. Everything we do in a particular church service can be considered an act of worship because everything we do should glorify God!

I. The first and foremost thing to realize about worship is that this is an act that is **TOTALLY** about God!

A. The word “worship” as we would define it shows up the first time in the book of Genesis.

Genesis 18:1-2 (NIV)

1 The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. 2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

1. This Hebrew word “shachah” is used throughout the O.T. when speaking about worship!
2. It means: to stoop and to bow.
3. To the Hebrew it became a “cultural expression” as well as seen in David bowing before Saul, Ruth bowed before Boaz and Joseph’s brothers bowing before him.

B. We see this carried forward into the examples of the N.T. worship!

Colossians 3:16 (NLV)

16 Let the teaching of Christ and His words keep on living in you. These make your lives rich and full of wisdom. Keep on teaching and helping each other. Sing the Songs of David and the church songs and the songs of heaven with hearts full of thanks to God.

1. Like many aspects of our faith, we make worship something that it isn’t and completely forget **WHAT IT IS!**

2. As the words of Christ keep on living in us, it causes us to “stoop and bow” to Him as we live a life of submission!
3. Any OUTWARD expression of worship is simply that: An outward expression of our inward act of worship.

John 4:23-24 (NLT)

23 The time is coming, yes, it is here now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father wants that kind of worshipers. 24 God is Spirit. Those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

4. Considering the meanings and application of those word meanings, The Lord is saying:

True and authentic worship is engaging and submitting to God on a spiritual and very real level. Bowing to Him as the giver and sustainer of life in complete dependence upon Him!

- C. True worship is something that cannot be faked because it only happens from the right motive of the heart...humility!

Isaiah 57:15 (NIV)

15 For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

- II. As with all of the aspects and principles of our Christian faith and as N.T. believers, much can be learned as we look at what the Lord spoke to O.T. believers concerning this new covenant_of redemption!

Hebrews 9:1-9 (NIV)

9 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. 2 A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, 4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron’s staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. 5 Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now. 6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. 7 But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for

himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. 8 The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. 9 This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper.

- A. Looking back at the “object lessons” of the old covenant, we can learn much about the relationship of worship in a believer’s life!
 - 1. The first mention of this is when God spoke to Moses and said for him, Moses, to build a place for Him!

Exodus 25:8 (NIV)

8 “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.

- 2. This was a sacred place, dedicated to God, for the purpose of living among His people!
- 3. This portable tabernacle was erected in the wilderness exactly one year after the original Passover and release of Israel from the slavery of Egypt!
- 4. According to God, what was the purpose? He stated, “So I could live among My people!”

Exodus 29:45-46 (NIV)

45 Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. 46 They will know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.

- 5. The Tabernacle of Moses, according to the writer of Hebrews, was a place of worship, a place of God’s presence and a type and shadow of our worship life TODAY!
- B. Israel would live and worship God and enjoy His presence while wondering the desert seeking the Promised Land! Sound familiar?