

NOTES

~ *Worship* ~

What does 'worship' mean? According to Hebrew words used to represent worship in the Torah (Old Testament), the New Testament, and the dictionary, we assign 'worth' or value to what we worship by:

- Bowing down, adoring, and revering (as we do in prayer and in our actions)
- **Serving**

We care for and assign worth to what we value (**Matthew 6:19-21**).

And we would not assign value to what we don't believe has any value or worth. True belief/value should = action (**James 2:17**).

Who should we worship? Our God and Christ. (Psalm 2:11-12; **Matthew 4:8-10**)

How should we worship? True worship is outward-bound **action**, not inward-bound feeling. Listening to music or messages that make us weepy won't do anything for our relationship with God or Christ. What will: obedience out of faith, reverence, serving, and participatory music/singing.

- Actionable love in worship:
 - o Mastery over our bodies: **Romans 12:1**
 - o Obedience out of faith to actionably love God and our fellow man: **John 13:34-35 & 14:23**
 - o Giving of what's important to us (i.e. time and money)
- Reverence: **Psalm 2:11-12**
- Outward expressions through music and singing: **Psalm 66:3-4; 1Chronicles 15:16** and **Colossians 3:16**

What *isn't* worship? - Anything passive (i.e. feeling good without resulting action, belief without action, etc.).

Who will worship God and our Christ in one way or other? Everyone – it's just a matter of when! (**Revelation 1:7 and 13:8; Isaiah 19:20-21**)

Summary: We assign worth to our God and Christ through action out of faith. We do this through spirit controlling the body (instead of the other way around) and outward expressions of praise through singing, music, etc. We also do this – most importantly – through caring for others and spreading the good news of salvation through our Christ.

~ *Worship* ~

What worship often means to us

The word ‘worship’ can conjure up so many different thoughts and definitions. For some, it’s hearing music on a Sunday morning or on the radio and feeling good about what they’re hearing.

For others, it means reverently bowing down and praying or doing particular rituals.

And yet, for others, it’s doing something meaningful to God out of obedience like feeding the hungry or helping the helpless.

Worship defined

What does ‘worship’ mean? According to Hebrew words used to represent worship in the Torah (Old Testament), the New Testament, and the dictionary, we assign ‘worth’ or value to what we worship by:

Reverence & serving

- Bowing down, adoring, and revering (as we do in prayer and in our actions)
- **Serving**

We care for what we value!

We care for and assign worth to what we value. We serve what we respect – revere. For instance, we might spend countless time and dollars caring for a thing like a car or tending to our financial investments. We’re worshipping these things. On the other hand, some people recognize that our love for God and Christ demands that we assign worth through our actions.

Our **treasure** is where our **hearts** are!

Regardless, our heart and treasures – those things we really care for – are certainly in sync!

[Matthew 6:19-21]

And we would not assign value to what we don’t believe has any value or worth. True belief/value should = action. In other words, we wouldn’t care for something we find no value in.

[James 2:17].

Who should we worship?

So . . . **who** should we worship? Our God and Christ. There is no one else we should assign worth to by offering everything we are and everything we have.

After all, our *Father of Spirits* created our flesh and Spirit and the world we inhabit. And, our Christ volunteered to inhabit human form to live and die as a human to fulfill prophecy and offer us a choice.

Why we worship our God and Christ

No one else can provide, heal, comfort, lead, and protect as God can through the Spirit that is given to all who truly believe and follow. So, worship our God and none else!

God and no one else!

[**Matthew 4:8-10**]

How should we worship?

And **how** should we worship? True worship is **outward-bound action**, not inward-bound feeling. Listening to music or messages that make us weepy won't do anything for our relationship with God or Christ.

Obedience out of faith – serving, revering, loving . . .

What will: obedience out of faith, reverence, serving, and participatory singing, playing, or dancing. This is true love – actionable, agape, love! Feeling good about something does no one any good but the one doing the feeling. But, acting out of that feeling does well for those the feelings are directed toward. And this is how we assign worth – determine what's worthy.

Feelings help no one but the feeler . . .

• Actionable love in worship:

- **Mastery** over our bodies. We must have self-control in our assignment of worth to our God. In fact, self-control is one of the fruits of the Spirit. And, remember, this Spirit is given to those who truly believe and follow.

[**Romans 12:1**]

- **Obedience** out of faith to actionably love God and our fellow man. Because we truly believe and follow, we prove our love by obeying Jesus' commandments to treat God appropriately and care for our fellow man.

[**John 13:34-35 & 14:23**]

Love through obedience!

Giving of precious resources (i.e. time and money) in worship

Reverence: healthy fear – respect – and honor

Some religions or denominations revere God through veneration of things or rites and rituals

Singing, dancing, and playing

Mention King David (dancing, 24X7 worship in the Temple, etc.)

Must participate!!

Another excellent side effect of our obedience is the giving of what's of value to us in the service of our Lord. For instance, one can worship our God and Christ by being obedient to care for others and spread the good news of salvation. This takes time and, often, money. The giving of those resources, which are often precious to the individual, are definitely acts of worship!

- **Reverence.** Scripture like the following Psalm tell us that we should worship the Lord with 'reverence and trembling'. In other words, we take seriously our attitudes, actions, speech, and thoughts directed toward Him.

What is *reverence*? According to Strong's Concordance, it's a 'fear'. I think it refers to a healthy fear – respect – that would certainly go well with anything we do with regard to someone or someone we assign great worth to.

In fact, our dictionary seems to support this, as it states that reverence is '*honor or respect*' felt or shown . . .

Some religions or denominations practice reverent worship through rites or rituals including prayers, activities, fasting, veneration of religious artifacts, etc. – all done out of respect and assignment of worth to our God and Christ.

[Psalm 2:11-12]

- **Outward expressions through music and singing.** There are two ways to handle music in church: listen to the music and enjoy it, which may make us feel good but does nothing for anyone else.

Or . . . we can actively participate in singing and playing as instructed by Scripture. This outward expression is a great way to adore, honor, and revere our God and Christ! (Give examples)

[Psalm 66:3-4]

[1Chronicles 15:16]

[Colossians 3:16]

Reminder that true worship is outward expression

NOT worship:

- Listen/feel only
- Belief or feeling only
- Hearing and feeling sorry but ignoring those in need
- Keeping knowledge to ourself
- WHO will worship?
EVERYONE!

Do, not Feel!

We should now understand that true worship is outward expression of some kind. It can be in song, dance, or playing. Or, it can be in giving of our resources as we seek obedience out of faith. Or, it can be adoration in prayer. But . . . do we sometimes *think* we're worshipping when we aren't?

What *isn't* worship? - Anything passive (i.e. feeling good without resulting action, belief without action, etc.). Examples include:

- Listening and *feeling* during worship music. Our worship in song and music must be active and participatory.
- Believing or *feeling* as though we believe in God and our Christ but then doing nothing out of that belief. Belief and emotion alone are worthless to God and His creation or plan of reconciliation.
- Hearing our neighbor's needs or cries for help and then feeling sorry but doing nothing to help.
- Keeping the message of salvation to ourselves. Knowledge of this saving grace given by our God is useless to Him without use of it to reach and teach others.

Who will worship God and our Christ in one way or other? **Everyone** – it's just a matter of when!

[**Revelation 1:7**]

[**Revelation 13:8**]

Summary: We assign worth to our God and Christ through action out of faith. We do this through spirit controlling the body (instead of the other way around) and outward expressions of praise through singing, music, etc. We also do this – most importantly – through caring for others and spreading the good news of salvation from God's judgment through our Christ. **DO** out of our **FEELINGS** or **BELIEF**!

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” —Matthew 6:19-21.

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. —James 2:17.

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’” —Matthew 4:8-10.

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. —Romans 12:1.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. —John 13:34-35.

Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.” —John 14:23.

Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him! —Psalm 2:11-12.

Say to God, “How awesome are Your works! Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies will give feigned obedience to You. All the earth will worship You, And will sing praises to You; They will sing praises to Your name.” Selah. —Psalm 66:3-4.

Then David spoke to the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their relatives the singers, with instruments of music, harps, lyres, loud-sounding cymbals, to raise sounds of joy. —1Chronicles 15:16.

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. —Colossians 3:16.

BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. —Revelation 1:7.

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. —Revelation 13:8.