

What Is Worship All About?

1. *What Is the Definition of Worship?*

- a. *To appoint worth, ultimately God-worth*
- b. *A subjective response to an objective value (a value not determined by you)*
- c. *Acknowledging God for Who and What He Is and Responding to Him Appropriately*

2. *The Determination of Worship – Worthiness*

Revelation 4:10-11 ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." (cp Psalm 18:3)

- a. *Worship is identifying and responding to the true worth of the object*
- b. *Worship is based upon the worthiness of what is worshiped*

3. *The Dereliction of Worship – False Worship*

Romans 1:22-25 ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

a. *Removing God-Worth From God, Presenting Him to Be Less Than He Is (22-23)*

- False worship may also be devaluing God to something less than He is
- Illustration: golden calf; idols
- This is reflected in our thinking and (lack of) obedience.

b. *Attributing God-Worth To That Which Is Not God (24-25)*

- placing a God-value on anything but God – replacing God with anything else
- Illustration – bowed down to angel in Revelation; Paul in Acts

Deuteronomy 12:3-4 ³ And you shall destroy their altars, break their *sacred* pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. ⁴ You shall not worship the Lord your God *with such things*.

John 4:24 God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

4. *The Direction of Worship – Only God-Ward*

a. *Worship is to be to God alone (for He alone is worthy as God)*

Exodus 20:1-7 – Exclusive honor of God, including “no other gods before Me (in My presence?)”

1 Corinthians 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

b. *Worship is directionally exclusive – you cannot worship opposites*

Deuteronomy 8:19 Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

Material Wealth

- **Matthew 6:24** No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- **Luke 14:33** So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Relationships

- **Luke 14:26** If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

Ambitions (what you pursue with your time, talents, and efforts)

- **Luke 14:27** And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Worldly Pleasures and Pursuits

- **James 4:4** Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- **1 John 2:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

You cannot worship a sports, a sports team, your car, money or the earning of it, a celebrity, or even your family and truly be worshipping God. You cannot worship God while worshipping anything else. Nothing else can demand that you focus your life upon it, make your decisions around it and because of it, except God or something or someone that replaces Him in your life..

5. *Why Do We Worship? (The Basis of Worship)*

We are created to worship. We all worship something: either the created or the Creator.

a. **Because God Deserves Our Worship**

- **1 Chronicles 16:29** Give to the Lord the glory *due* His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
- **Psalms 29:2** Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

b. **Because God Is the Lord (the Sovereign of the Universe)**

- **Psalms 45:11** So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He *is* your Lord, worship Him.

c. **Because God Is Your Creator**

- **Psalms 95:6** Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- **Psalms 96:9** Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.
- **Revelation 4:10-11** ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."
- **Revelation 14:7** saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

d. **Because God Is Holy**

- **Psalms 99:5** Exalt the Lord our God, And worship at His footstool-- He *is* holy.
- **Psalms 99:9** Exalt the Lord our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the Lord our God *is* holy.

e. **Because of God's Lovingkindness and Truth**

- **Psalms 138:2** I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

f. **Because We Are Commanded To Do So**

- **Matthew 4:10** Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, '*You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.*' " (c.f. *Exodus 34:14*)

6. *How Do I Worship? (8 Acts of Worship – a partial list) – Duties of Worship?*

a. **Prayer**

1 Timothy 2:1-7 ¹ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, ⁷ for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle--I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying--a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

b. **Praise/Thanksgiving**

Hebrews 13:10-16 ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. ¹² Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. ¹³ Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. ¹⁴ For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. ¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

c. **Giving & Doing Good (Sharing | Serving) – Giving Attention To (worship & serve used together often)**

Deuteronomy 26:10 and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O Lord, have given me.' Then you shall set it before the Lord your God, and worship before the Lord your God.

1 Chronicles 16:29 Give to the Lord the glory *due* His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

Matthew 2 – illustrated by the actions of the Magi (wise men)

Romans 12:1-2 ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Hebrews 13:16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (*is v.17 "doing good"?) see also v.21*)

d. Singing

Psalms 66:4 All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name."
Selah

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

e. Giving Time?

Sabbath?

Luke 14:27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

f. By Honoring God Internally (true religion is not external ritual; all is not as it appears)

Matthew 23:26-28 ²⁶ Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. ²⁷ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

g. By Observing (Knowing and Practicing?) the Truth

John 4:23-24 ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

1 Samuel 15:22-23 ²² So Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. ²³ For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king."

Acts 24:14 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.

h. By Being Holy

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13-16 ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Summary:

Either We Worship, Honor and Obey God As God, Our Source of Life & Truth, or We Are Aimless and Clueless

- **Proverbs 1:7** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- **Proverbs 9:10** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- **John 8:12** Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
- **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

All of life is geared toward properly responding to God as He deserves. One cannot truly know anything accurately without a proper response to God, acknowledging and acting upon Who He is. To relegate God to anything less than being the Lord of our lives, or to ignore Him altogether, is false worship.

To illustrate, use our public school system, which now is atheistic, evolutionistic, humanistic, and materialistic. They purport to teach knowledge, but in reality, you can neither gain true knowledge or wisdom without the fear of the Lord. Thus, anything taught is incomplete and misrepresents God as God. One cannot accurately understand math without understanding the true absolute of God Himself; you cannot accurately perceive history and reject the one who sovereignly rules all of mankind through all ages; you cannot accurately perceive biology, anatomy, and medicine unless you acknowledge the magnificent Creator and Sustainer; you cannot fathom a measureless universe unless you understand the infinite designer and creator of the cosmos. One cannot study sociology, the study of how people interact, unless they truly understand the desperation of sinful man in the eyes of a Holy God.

*To fail to acknowledge God as God, to fail to worship Him, is to be idolatrous at best, pagan at worst, and either way making ourselves enemies of God. **Are you a God-worshiper?***