

Kingdom Foundations Part Eight

Worship-A Proper Response

Worship Isn't:

- singing songs
 - reserved for Sunday
 - a service
 - made valid by a style
 - About me or my preferences
 - Only for people with “creative” gifts
 - about convincing God to bless us
 - based on our worth
 - about whether the guitar is too loud
 - about what's happening on the stage
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Worship Is...

- personal and corporate,
 - changing throughout History,
 - ascribing worth “worth-ship”
 - all about GIVING our lives (again) to God
 - surrender
 - a huge thing
 - all about Jesus
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Extravagant Worship by Darlene Zschech She defines worship as:

“...when one's spirit adores and connects with the Spirit of God, when the very core of one's being is found *loving Him, lost in Him.*”

Worship is a **response to revelation.** “A gifted response”

Definition of Worship in *Worship by the Book* by D.A. Carson

Worship is the proper response of all moral and consciously aware beings ascribing all honor and worth to their Creator-God precisely because he is worthy, delightfully so. Empowered by the Spirit and in line with the stipulations of the new covenant, it

manifests itself in all our living, finding it's impulse in the gospel, which restores our relationship with our Redeemer-God and therefore also with our fellow image bearers, our co-worshippers. Such worship therefore manifests itself in both adoration and in action, both in the individual believer and in *corporate worship*, which is worship offered up in the context of the body of believers, who strive to align all the forms of their devout ascription of worth to God.

1. Why do we worship?

- God has ordained it (Psalm 8:2)
 - We WORSHIP GOD because He is **worthy**
 - It is our proper response because it's grounded in the "otherness" of God
 - He alone is Creator God- it is a proper response of the creature to the Creator
 - We we're made to worship
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2. How does God ask us to approach our worship of Him?

We don't begin with asking whether or not we *enjoy* worship, but by asking "What is it that God expects of us?"

D.A. Carson in his book entitled *Worship by the Book* states:

If we know the characteristic sins of the age, we can guess its foolish and fashionable assumptions--that morality is simply a matter of personal taste, that all silences need to be filled up with human chatter or background music, that 760 percent of the American people are victims, that it is better to feel than to think, that rights are more important than responsibilities, that even for children, the right to choose supersedes all other rights, that real liberty can be enjoyed without virtue, that self reproach is for fogies, that God is a chum or even a golfer who's job is to make us rich or happy or religiously excited, that it is more satisfying to be envied than respected, that it is better for politicians and preachers to be cheerful than truthful, ***that Christian worship fails unless it is fun.***

Three ways we can offer our bodies to God in our worship:

1. **Singing**- There are 139 verses about singing to the Lord.

- (Psalm 89:1) I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.
- (Psalm 104:33) I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
- (Ephesians 5:19) Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (Colossians 3:16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

2. **Kneeling** – The biblical posture of submission, a physical demonstration of a spiritual reality

- (Psalm 95:6) Come, let us bow down in worship. Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

3. **Lifting our hands** – The biblical posture of prayer

- (Psalm 63:4) I will praise you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.
- (Psalm 88:9) I call to you, O Lord, everyday; I spread out my hands to you.
- (Psalm 134:2) Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord.
- (Nehemiah 8:6) Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded "Amen! Amen!"
- (Lamentations 3:41) Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens.
- (Ezra 9:5-6) I fell on my knees with my hands spread out to the Lord my God and prayed.
- (2 Chronicles 6:13) [Solomon] knelt down before the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven.
- (I Timothy 2:8) I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer.
- (Psalm 88:9) Everyday I call to you and spread my hands out to you.

3. **What should be the result of Authentic Worship?**

- Advancing the Kingdom of God
 - Pursuit of justice
 - A hatred of evil
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Romans 12:2 says we offer our bodies as "living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God" as our "spiritual act of worship."