

**The Family & Worship: Part 1**  
VARIOUS SCRIPTURES

**INTRODUCTION**

What is *worship*? Is worship simply the musical portion of a church service? Is it the church service itself? Worship is the inward act of ascribing inestimable worth to something, which then moves a person to outwardly praise, delight, and humbly bow down before it. Or put simply, worship is a heart attitude which then moves to an outward action.

**TRUTH: Families must regularly and corporately worship God in the home.**

*There are five reasons why families must worship God together in the home.*

**I. WORTHINESS: GOD IS INFINITELY WORTH SUCH WORSHIP.**

Recently, Pastor Dickson preached from the book of Psalms in which sermon he asked the question, *Who is so great, such a God as our God? The resounding answer is this: There is no god who is great as our Mighty God.* In the Old Testament the Lord continually reminded Israel of His worth and might. The prophet Isaiah attributes great worth to God:

**Isaiah 40:12–17** Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, And meted out heaven with the span, And comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, And weighed the mountains in scales, And the hills in a balance? Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, And taught him in the path of judgment, And taught him knowledge, And shewed to him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, And are counted as the small dust of the balance: Behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, Nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before him are as nothing; And they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

The omnipotent, infinite, sovereign God is worth our praise. His ways are past finding out. God has always existed. He is the self-existent One. Nothing exists apart from His command. He alone is worthy of praise. In the New Testament we see the revelation of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Jesus, the Second Person of the Godhead, is worthy of such worship. For instance:

**Revelation 4:9–11** And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created

Creatures in the throne room of heaven ascribe to Jesus the worthiness of their worship and adoration. God is infinitely worthy of all worship and praise.

**II. PURPOSE: WE WERE CREATED TO WORSHIP GOD**

The Almighty God who inhabits eternity breathed out the words, *Let there be*—and there was. Where once nothing existed save the omnipotent, Holy God, now the cosmos existed. The crowning creation which God made was that of an image-bearer.

**Genesis 1:26–28** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said

unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

God commanded the creature which He made to glorify His worthy Name by obeying and fulfilling the Creation Mandate. What would happen if the first man and woman fulfilled their calling? They would procreate and fill the earth with many other image-bearers who would magnify their Creator by obedient living in worshipful harmony—with Him. This means Adam and Eve would teach their children about the benevolence and sweetness of God. They would tell their children how God in omnipotent power spoke the universe into existence. They would teach their children to love and embrace a sweet relationship with Holy God. It was for this purpose they were created.

Yet such bliss would not continue on. Eve was deceived by the Serpent. She trespassed against Holy God in eating of the forbidden fruit which God had expressly condemned to her and her husband. Adam, instead of leading his wife into humble contrition before Holy God and appealing for His divine mercy, flagrantly rebelled against the command of God (Gen. 3:1–8). Adam and Eve, who had once enjoyed the presence and fellowship of God, now chose to run from His Holy presence and hide in the shrubbery. God condemned the Serpent, Eve, and Adam. He pronounced a curse on the very creation He had previously said was “very good” (Gen. 1:31). From that point on Adam and Eve would run from God as would all of their descendants. All of humanity, originally created to worship the One who is infinitely worth our worship, now as “alienated in mind” and “hostile toward God” (Rom. 8:7–9; Col. 1:21).

Yet all hope was not lost. God spoke the *protoevangelium*, the first gospel in Genesis 3:15:

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

God promised to redeem His fallen creatures and restore them once again to the purpose which He had for them: the pure, unadulterated worship of His Holy name. Nevertheless God still commanded His fallen creatures to worship Him. Throughout the Old Testament the saints looked forward in anticipation of that coming day or redemption (cf. Hebrews 11). They knew that the Messiah would come. Thus, they called each other (in anticipation of that day) to obey God’s command and worship the Lord.

**Psalms 96:7–9** Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people, Give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: Bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Fear before him, all the earth.

The Lord did not just demand worship. He placed within His creatures the instinct to worship—they would most certainly worship something. However, in their fallen state they would not be inclined to worship Him. Their self-deceptive hearts would lead them astray to worship everything else *but Him* (cf. Rom. 1:18–25). Yet the Lord made it abundantly clear: He demanded exclusive worship. Anything short of worshipping Him was *idolatry*.

**Exodus 20:1–7** And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

**Exodus 34:14** For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

Unfortunately we see the depravity of man’s idolatrous heart today. People refuse to do that which they were created to do and instead worship themselves and their idols of greed, lust, hatred, vanity, material, etc. With regards to personal pampering we are “worth it,” assures the broad culture. Too many parents,

teenagers, and even young children (!) are busy worshiping their technology to ascribe to God the glory that is due His name (1 Chron. 16:29; cf. Ps. 96:3; 146:1–2).

Consider this question: *What are you known for? What are distinctive attributes about you which others think of when they think of you?* There might be a myriad of things which come to mind. For me, many people who think of me might immediately consider my allegiance to a specific sports team (go Minnesota Wild!). Perhaps they think of my appreciation for a specific brand of technology (I typed these notes on an Apple MacBook Air). Why would people consider these specific things? *Because I take the time to speak of them freely and readily.* I do so because I consider these things worthy of my time and accolades (though some might sincerely protest). How much more ought the people who have been created by God and redeemed by the blood of the Lamb be known for their ardent and ready praise of One Who is infinitely worth it!

### III. WARNING: THERE ARE DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES IF WE DO NOT

There is no escape for those who refuse to worship God. There is no hope for the one who thinks he can escape his responsibility of worshiping God. The Lord will not hold those guiltless who refuse to magnify His name before all people and worship Him in the beauty of holiness. Throughout the Old Testament God warned Israel of the devastating consequences for not worshiping Him. For example, the Lord assured Israel that should they refuse to worship and obey Him they would suffer economically (Debt. 28:1–57). Then He told Israel:

**Deuteronomy 28:58–59** If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; Then the Lord will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance.

In the New Testament Jesus, the Second Person of the Godhead, also received worship.

**Matthew 28:9** And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Were Jesus a mere man such worship would be scandalous. However, Jesus is the God-man. He is worthy of our worship. As we saw in Revelation, Jesus is worthy to be worshiped (Rev. 5:8–14). God has given to Christ a name that is above every name. He is exalted and must be worshiped (Phil. 2:9–11). Those who refuse to bow the knee to Christ are doomed to eternal judgment (Rev. 20:11–15; cf. Rev. 16:8–11).

### IV. DESIGN: GOD DESIGNED THE HOME FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

Now we begin to narrow down the focus of worship closer to home. We have seen that God is infinitely worth our worship, we were created for the express purpose of glorifying God with our worship, and there are disastrous consequences for *not* worshiping Holy God. Suffice it to say, worship is important. How much more should worship be conducted within the first sphere of influence: the family!

As we noted before, the fulfillment of the Creation Mandate suggests that parents are responsible for the spiritual instruction and formation in the home. Furthermore, the Lord gave explicit instructions to Israel for instruction in the home:

**Deuteronomy 6:4–15** Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the Lord thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the Lord thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

To love the Lord with every fiber of our being is to worship Him. It was the responsibility of the parents to teach the infinite worth of God to their children. Why? *Because it is our innate fallenness which propels us to worship everything but Him.* We are prone to forget the God whom we love and abandon the worship which He demands. The bent of our heart is to worship the blessings which our Lord provides. Thus, the Lord clearly lays out before Israel the immense responsibility of worshipping God *in the home.*

We are given no less a command from our Lord in the New Testament. Paul reiterates the importance of family worship and instruction when he *specifically admonishes fathers:*

**Ephesians 6:4 (NASB)** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

It is the responsibility of the father (and mother) to discipline and teach/instruct the children in the way of Christ. God designed it to be this way. The Scriptures describe this not as "going to church on Sunday." This is a manner of living. Of course taking our children to church is important but it is not designed to be the only way in which our children are instructed to worship Christ. If your children see worship as merely "going to church Sundays" by virtue of the fact that that is all you do, you have done your children a great disservice. Worship must not be relegated to being at a church building. Worship is offering the totality of our beings to God.

**Romans 12:1 (NASB)** 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.

If the next generation is to see the worth of God they must see worship modeled in the home. They must see people of all ages ascribing to God the glory that is due His name.

#### V. WISDOM: WE FIND AND LEAD OUR FAMILY TO THE PATH TO LIFE

At the most narrow point, we see that when a family worships God as a pattern of life in the home it will provide the foundation for children to walk wisely in this world. It will lead to the path of life which is found only in the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is what makes your responsibility of worship in the home so important. When your children see an authentic devotion to Christ they will be attracted to it. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life (Prov. 14:27). Leading your children in Christ-centered, gospel-saturated worship will direct their steps to the path of life.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Worship must begin in the home. Families were designed by God to worship His holy name. We must lead our families in devotion to Christ.