

What is Worship?

Colossians 3:1-16 & Eph. 5:18-21

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Song

Opening Thoughts On True Worship

Our worship is to glorify God. Worship does not begin at 11 am on Sunday. It began the moment we were saved and it ought to continually take place every moment of every day. And then on Sunday, when God's blood brought children corporately gather together (as we are today) we are to continue our worship as one body, with one voice and with spirit to glorify God.

This morning we are simply continuing our regular daily worship in a corporate and orderly fashion. It is being done as a body of believers.

We often mistake worship to be an event that occurs just on Sunday. We think of it as containing a few songs followed by a few prayers and a message, all of which ends at 12-noon. If that is your view, then it is far from the biblical meaning of worship.

Rather, genuine worship involves our every moment of every day. It includes continual prayer, praise, giving of thanks, songs, reading, mediating and practicing the word of God. It involves our every action as they all reflect our God or point to His grace. It includes our deeds, our words of encouragement, exhortation with each other and it incorporates our continual fellowship with God and with one another.

In short, biblical worship is the continual outpouring of our soul towards God.

1. That is why we are exhorted to
 - a. Prayer without ceasing - Acts 12:5; 1 Thess. 5:17
 - b. Remembering without ceasing - 1 Thess. 1:3
 - c. Giving Thanks without ceasing - 1 Thess. 2:13
2. Our worship is reflected in our conduct at work.

- a. 1Tim. 6:1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own **masters** worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.
- b. Col. 4:1 **Masters**, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

Therefore, our worship is reflected in our attitude to authority, our integrity, our regards toward those who work for us and for our co-workers.

3. Our worship is reflected in our conduct in the home.

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” - Eph. 5:24

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.” - Col. 3:18

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.” - Eph. 6:1

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your **children** to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” - Eph. 6:4

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you. - Eph. 4:32

Our worship is reflected in our love toward our mate, our conduct with our children, our willingness to forgive and our endless Spirit empowered living in their midst.

God’s purpose for us is described in Eph. 1:12 “That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

1. Our private worship should be reflected in our in our personal thoughts, in what we see, in our time spent with the Lord and so much more.
2. Our corporate worship should not to be a performance where a few people build us up to an emotional high. Rather, it should be God’s spirit-filled children gathering together to pour out their souls before God in thanksgiving for His greatness, mercy, grace and love. We should thank Him for His abundant care; we should share of His abundant mercy with testimonies and praise. We should sing of His

goodness, greatness, and holiness and tell others of how He has touched our lives and listen to His Holy Word.

3. His word is not a rulebook (though it does have some rules). It is not an instruction manual (though it does have many instructions and lessons for us to learn). Rather it is a book about our God. It tells us of His great love and how He sent His Son Jesus to redeem us from our sins and then to make us a new creature in Christ. It tells us of the exceeding riches of His grace, in His kindness towards us, through Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:6)
4. Psalm 103:11-18 shares of God's greatness

“For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. ¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. ¹⁴ For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. ¹⁵ As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. ¹⁶ For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. ¹⁷ But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; ¹⁸ To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.”

Lead the congregation in a Hymn of the faith

Colossians 3:1-2, 6 speaks about our worship.

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. . . . Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry . . .”

The positive side of worship involves our seeking, setting our affections on things above. The negative side of worship involves our daily putting to death fleshly earthly things that have not part with godliness and holiness. This means our minds must be saturated with God's word and our hearts filled with His love.

Colossians 3:12-14 tells us what we are to put on

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;¹³ Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.¹⁴ And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

All this affects our worship. It involves our adoring Christ both privately and corporately. It results in peace.

Colossians 3:15

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

- a. Peace in your home.
- b. Peace and unity within the assembly of believers
- c. A growing unity within the assembly

This is why worship is not an event. It is not something that just happens for an hour on Sunday. Worship is our lives fixed on Christ 24/7. Our daily worship prepares us for our corporate gathering. By the time we gather on Sunday, we ought to have worship flowing from a soul that has been fixed on Christ though out the week.

Let’s stand and sing of this.

Sing another song of praise

True worship testifies of God’s grace.

Vicky is going to share her testimony of God’s grace while in boot camp.

True worship Involves giving

“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you **lay** by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
1Cor. 16:2

True worship involves serving

Serving within the assembly: Our ushers, the offertory, the nursery workers, the children church works, our King's kids workers, our secretaries, etc.

Serving Christ outside the walls of this assembly:

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” - Eph. 2:10

True Worship Involves Our Hearing and Applying God's Word

Another Song

Message: When God Works, People Sing

We already covered many aspects about worship. I would like to address four final aspects we will see today.

1. The power behind our worship
2. The joy that flows from genuine worship
3. The remembrance of the One whose sacrifice made it all possible - communion
4. The fellowship of the Saints - flock groups.

Colossians 3:16

- a. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom
- b. Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
- c. Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:18-21

- a. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit
- b. Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord

- c. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
- d. Submitting one to another in the fear of God.

Three keys to corporate worship

1. Internally:
 - a. The word of Christ dwell in you richly with all wisdom.
 - b. Be ye filled with the Spirit.
 - c. The more these two things occur within the body of believers the richer the worship
2. Horizontally:
 - a. Teaching and admonishing in Psalms, hymns and spiritual song . . .
or
Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
So our songs are to teach and admonish (to put in mind, to gently remind warn etc.)
 - b. Singing with grace in your hearts or making melody in your heart
 - c. Submitting one to another in the fear of God.
3. Vertically towards God
 - a. Singing with grace in your hearts **to the Lord**
 - b. Making melody in your heart **to the Lord**

Some insights to corporate worship:

It is interesting that Christians are to express themselves in song. Singing is foundational to New Testament Christianity and Church Life.

Christian singing is music with truth

1. Objective singing - Text saturated doctrinally true. Talks and teaches about who is God and what He has done. It will magnify Christ.

2. Subjective: It is how these truths affect our lives. It can be songs sung to God for His greatness, His love, His mercy, and His Grace. Or they can be songs about times when God reached down and touched us and changed us.

Songs are generally written after God worked in a powerful way in someone's life. Singing is often found in the Scriptures after God moved in a powerful way. After God's people experience His presence, power and love they then sing out of the fullness of their hearts. Examples of this is found in . . .

Exodus 15:1, 20 - after the Red Sea

Numbers 21:16-17 - after God gave Israel water

Judges 5:1-2 - after God gave victory to Israel

Psalms 106:12 - after God spoke and they rejoiced at His word and sang.

When God works, people sing.

1. Every generation this happens. When people are saved they sing out in praise. It is not always the same song. It is in their language. Its style and meter is influenced by their culture, but it is song of praise and thanksgiving.

Surely Moses and Miriam's song differed from King David's. Miriam used cymbals and tambourines while David used string instruments. Solomon used choirs, drums and trumpets.

The High church took from the classical writers. The revivalist used the music styles familiar with their culture and pump organs, pianos, soloists and so on. In Africa, they use their culture and styles. In China, India and Indonesia they use their culture and style. No hymn book can contain all the songs that flowed from changed lives glorifying God

2. The point is this. Every generation touched by God's marvelous grace has songs that flowed from their souls to glorify God. It was done in their culture; their style and it flowed from regenerated hearts.

They sing of His greatness. They sing of His marvelous work. They sing of their changed lives. They sing of their love and adoration.

We are told to do this. It is pleasing to God. It can be short like Ps. 134 or doctrinal like the Creeds given in the NT. They can be repeating and responsive and much more.

The Keys:

When God works individually, corporately, and nationally, His people sing. It is the rejoicing that flows from the soul.

It is songs that glorify our Lord. It glorifies Him, His work, and His Love. It is the singing of praise and thanksgiving.

Every generation will do it differently.

- a. Note: Ephesians 5:21

“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”

I suggest this is here because congregational worship is the greatest guardian against **Me-ism**.

Me-ism is, if it doesn't fit my mold it is wrong. Hence we have the pendulum swings within corporate worship. From the deep doctrinal wordy hymns with musical styles of decades and in some cases hundreds of years old to the swallow on sentence songs, repeated over and over again ***and churches being all or nothing in either camp.***

The Me-ism is on both sides. It is a church gone dysfunction.

What ever happened to “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”

Each generation desires to express their salvation and the work of God in their lives in a unique way. Yet, when we come together, we are to submit one to another in the fear of God.

This may mean avoiding the extremes for each other's sake. Keeping the biblical mandates - unto the Lord, singing songs with truth and present music that can be sung which embraces the great **songs of the past**, giving the church a link to the past, **but also reach forward and new saints** as they express God's glorious grace in their life.

I Love You, Lord - 80

The Breaking of Bread - Corporate worship - The body of Christ.

Closing Hymn: Power of the Cross.