

WORSHIP: BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN? Essential Christian Doctrines

"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.
John 4:23

SOME COMMON CHRISTIAN "ZONED-OUT" ZONES:

Prayer meetings
Weddings
Sunday Morning Worship Services

THE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Question: But what does "worship" mean?

Webster Dictionary:

Definition: (1) to show worthiness, respect, or reverence paid to a divine being; (2) a person of importance — used as a title for various officials; (3) a form of religious practice with its creed and ritual; (4) extravagant respect or admiration for or devotion to an object of esteem.

The Complete Word Study Dictionary, Zodhiates, S. (2000).

Definition: to kiss, adore, show respect, fall or prostrate before. Literally, to kiss toward someone, to throw a kiss in token of respect or homage.

Question: Again, what does "worship" mean?

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when (who) the true worshipers will (what) worship the Father (how) in spirit and truth; (why) for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (requirement) God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in (1) spirit and (2) truth." John 4:23-24

Summary

Worship may be defined as honor given to a superior being. It has the connotation of ascribing worth to someone or something. For Christians, *worship* is the activity of glorifying God in his presence with our voices and hearts. It is a direct expression of our ultimate purpose for living, "to glorify God and fully enjoy Him forever."

THE BIBLICAL PICTURE OF WORSHIP

Question: But what does "worship" look like?

Worship is giving absolutely all to the Lord:

Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and (what) worship, and we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. Genesis 22:4-6

Worship is recognizing that God is God and we are not:

Give unto the Lord (what) the glory due to His name; (what) worship the Lord in (what) the beauty of holiness. Psalm 29:2

Question

Do we worship the Lord in the beauty of *our* holiness or in the beauty of His holiness?

Oh come, let us (1) worship and (2) bow down; let us (3) kneel before the Lord our Maker. Psalm 95:6

Worship is sparing no expense to give glory to the King:

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to (what) worship Him." Matthew 2:1-2

But Ornan said to David, "Take it to yourself, and let my lord the king do what is good in his eyes. Look, I also give you the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood, and the wheat for the grain offering; I give it all."

Then King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, (why) for I will not take what is yours for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing."

1 Chronicles 21:23-24

Worship is what we will joyously do for all eternity:

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" Isaiah 6:1-3

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 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: "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 4:8-11

See Revelation 5:8-14

Worship is what God expects us to do together:

And you shall say to him, "The Lord God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, (why) that they may serve (or, worship) Me in the wilderness"; but indeed, until now you would not hear!" Exodus 7:16

AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE WORSHIP?

1. We delight in God and God delights in us

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord (how long) all the days of my life, (why) to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.

Psalms 27:4

Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.

Psalms 73:25

2. We draw near to God and God draws near to us

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:8

3. And incredible, indescribable things happen!

Some Final Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Worship:

Am I sincere? Am I humble? Am I earnestly seeking to please the Lord in everything and to ascribe to Him the glory due His name? Am I pure? Am I coming to Him in faith? Do I seek His presence more than the very air that I breathe? If so, then hang on...