

What Is Worship

There are so many incorrect or incomplete ideas relating to worship. Hands down, the thought that goes through people's mind when they hear or refer to "**worship**" is **MUSIC**.

Truth Point #1: Worship and music are _____ synonymous. Music is a _____ by which worship may be expressed, but NOT the essence of it.

WORSHIP: defining the term.

Hebrew = *hwh* = bow down, to kneel, as to a deity.

Greek = *proskyneō* = bow down, to kneel, to prostrate oneself, as to a deity.

English: The Old English = **weorthscipe** = **worth-ship**... it's about conveying or acknowledging the worthiness or worth of something or someone.

The basic idea in all of the above is to **ascribe the worth** of that which we value most. To bow or kneel is to communicate humility, an acknowledgement of the **higher value** of what you bow to, over yourself.

Truth Point #2: Bowing down, kneeling or prostrating, more closely captures the essence of worship when it is occurring in one's _____ than in one's outer actions.

Perhaps you have heard about the boy whose parent made him sit down against his will. He said: *I'm sitting down outwardly, but I'm standing inwardly!*

Just because one goes through the motions of worship outwardly, does not mean they are actually worshipping. Only when the expression comes willingly from the inner person, the heart, is one actually worshipping.

Truth Point #3: Worship, in the Biblical sense is _____.
When one chooses God's will over their own will, not because they are forced, but of their own volition, that is worship. **See John 14:15**

Keeping The Lord's commandments, instructions, directives, requires a conscience choice to live out His will, over your own. When one does this from a platform of love rather than compulsion, they demonstrate the value God has to them, thus ascribing His worth, thus worshipping Him.

How To Worship God – John 4:23-24

John 4 is perhaps the clearest instruction given by Jesus about God's expectations of those who would worship Him. **See VS21-22.**

Jesus informs the woman at the well that ultimately, "PLACE," as it relates to worship, is not an issue. So, what is the issue relating to worship? **See VS23-24** Jesus identifies "spirit" & "truth" as what The Father is looking for when it comes to worship.

SPIRIT: is Jesus talking about the Holy Spirit, or the human spirit?

If this mention of "spirit" was referring to the Holy Spirit, the word ***pneuma*** (breath – wind – spirit) would be combined with ***hagios*** = *holy, only one, pure, divine... but it's not!*

Additionally, the context does not point to God's Spirit, but to the worshiper's spirit. That's why you find the word "**spirit**" **without a capital S**... it's not referring to the Divine.

Truth Point #4: The word "**spirit**" in this context is referring to _____ spirit. Jesus is telling us that God is NOT interested in worship driven by **location**, or **tradition**, which are **external** matters. God is interested in the _____, which is internal.

Point of fact: External does not drive Internal.

Internal drives External.

Truth Point #5: True Worship begins in the _____, not the mouth or the hands. As such, true worship begins **long before the worship gathering** as one _____ their heart to encounter God.

Take a moment and reflect on your average Sunday morning, getting ready at home, driving to the church house, mingling before the worship gathering begins... what is your mind focused on? I fear too often it is focused on anything and everything other than Christ.

True Worship is NOT a switch you can flip at 10 AM and expect that the empowerment to worship will automatically flow. **True Worship** comes from the spirit, and requires a preparation of the spirit to connect with God.

Truth: If True Worship begins IN the human spirit, then TRUTH is the FOUNDATION that ensures the worship coming through the human spirit is TRUE!

In His High-Priestly prayer, Jesus asked The Father: *Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.* **John 17:17**

Truth Point #5: Worship cannot be true unless it is founded upon the _____ of God's inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word.

Worship must be grounded in TRUTH, or it is not True Worship. As such, it will not be accepted by God, and may in fact bring His judgement upon us.

Truth Point #6: When WORSHIP is generated by the light of Scriptural TRUTH, it brings _____ to the human spirit, evidenced by a _____ desire to bring others into a place of loving worshipful expression toward God.

We worship in spirit and truth **imperfectly** now, but a day is coming when we will worship with a _____ and in _____ in the presence of The King!

Wrap Up

Colossians 3:16: ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you **richly (TRUTH)**, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, **singing psalms** and **hymns** and **spiritual songs**, with **thankfulness (WORSHIP)** in your **hearts (SPIRIT)** to God.

True worship is about..

- the **Word of God** finding a home in our hearts, transforming us in the innermost being...
- ...bursting out with **thanksgiving** and **praise** for God's love, mercy and grace...
- ...molding us to the **image** of Jesus as sons and daughters of God.

Christian... how's your worship? **Is it True?**

Finally, it needs to be said that True Worship cannot occur in one who has not yet responded in repentance and faith to Christ. Do you sense God drawing you to Himself? Do you have questions? Can I or another believer be of help?

Reach out and let's connect.

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