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Part 2

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

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EXALTING

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A. What is Worship?



D.A. Carson:

Worship is the proper response of all moral, sentient beings to God, ascribing all honor and worth to their Creator-God precisely because he is worthy, delightfully so. This side of the Fall, *human worship* of God properly responds to the redemptive provisions that God has graciously made. While all true worship is God-centered, *Christian worship* is no less Christ-centered.

D.A. Carson:

Empowered by the Spirit and in line with the stipulations of the new covenant, it manifests itself in all our living, finding its impulse in the gospel, which restores our relationship with our Redeemer-God and therefore also with our fellow image-bearers, our co-worshipers. Such worship therefore manifests itself both in adoration and in action, both in the individual believer and in *corporate worship*,

D.A. Carson:

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 all worth to God with the panoply of new covenant mandates and examples that bring to fulfillment the glories of antecedent revelation and anticipate the consummation.

<https://www.9marks.org/article/class-xii-worship/>

William Temple:

“For to worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, and to devote the will to the purpose of God.” John MacArthur, in his... [book on] worship, *The Ultimate Priority* (p. 127), defines worship as “our innermost being responding with praise for all that God is,

William Temple:

through our attitudes, actions, thoughts, and words, based on the truth of God as He has revealed Himself.”

Or (p. 147), “Worship is all that we are, reacting rightly to all that He is.”

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-23-life-thankful-worship-colossians-316-17>

A. What is Worship?

Hebrew – *Shachah*

It means physically “to bow down.”

It is used over 170 times in the Old Testament.

In the New Testament there are various words used: referring to serving, reverence, object of worship...

Worship is an attitude expressed in an action.

Genesis 18:1-3

And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and **bowed himself to the earth** and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant...”

A. What is Worship?

Worship is ascribing worth or value to someone or something.

Worship is delighting in God. It is thanking Him and obeying Him out of love, because of what He did in Christ.

A. What is Worship?

Worship is theological. If we don't understand the doctrine of salvation and what it means to be a Christian, our worship will be minimal.

Worship is based in love.

What about sincerity?

We become like what we worship: *Psalm 115:8.*

B. How did God Instruct Israel to Worship Him?

What is the first commandment?

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What is the first commandment?

Exodus 20:3 – You shall have no other gods before Me.

God told Israel to worship Him exclusively!

Joshua 24:14-15

“Now therefore fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Joshua 24:14-15

“Now therefore fear the LORD and **serve** Him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers **served** beyond the River and in Egypt, and **serve** the LORD. And if it is evil in your eyes to **serve** the LORD, choose this day whom you will **serve**, whether the gods your fathers **served** in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will **serve** the LORD.”

2 Chronicles 7:19-22

“But if you turn aside and forsake My statutes and My commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will pluck you up from my land that I have given you, and this house that I have consecrated for My Name, I will cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. And at this house, which was exalted, everyone passing by will be astonished and say,

2 Chronicles 7:19-22

‘Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?’ Then they will say, ‘Because they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore, He has brought all this disaster on them.’”

Amos 5:21-24

“I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer Me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from Me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

C. How has God Instructed us to Worship Him?

John 4:23-24 – “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Worship is *honoring and lifting God up and extolling His character* because of *His redemption in Christ*, in our relationship with Him. *If our worship is based in our emotions and not in truth, then our worship is self-centered!*

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1. Corporate worship *displays our God-glorifying unity.*
2. Corporate worship *allows us to help each other in worship.*
3. Corporate worship is *edifying.*
4. Corporate worship *offers a taste of heaven.*

<https://www.9marks.org/article/class-xii-worship/>

D. How can We Exalt Christ in our Daily Lives?

Singing is part of it. Sing to Him!

9Marks

"Developing a biblical definition of worship is not easy. There is no one-to-one correspondence of any Greek word to our English word "worship."

It's clear, however, that *worship extends far beyond what goes on in a church building on a Sunday morning - and certainly far beyond praise in the form of song.*"

<https://www.9marks.org/article/class-xii-worship/>

D. How can We Exalt Christ in our Daily Lives?

After 11 chapters of doctrine or objective truth, Paul says, in **Romans 12:1** -

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your *spiritual act of worship*.”

Colossians 3:16-17

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

D. How can We Exalt Christ in our Daily Lives?

1 Corinthians 10:31 - *Whatever we do, we do for the glory of God!*

This is worship in our daily lives!