

Ephesians Series

Lesson #233

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Dean Bible Ministries

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How Should We Define Worship?

Ephesians 5:18–21; Isaiah 6:1–4



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Results of being filled by the Spirit:

Eph. 5:19, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph. 5:20, “giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus

Christ,

Eph. 5:21, “submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Eph. 5:22, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

Results of the Word dwelling richly:

Col 3:16b, “... teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Col. 3:17, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Col. 3:18, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”

What are Our Assumptions?

1. We believe the Bible is the inspired [“breathed out”] Word of God.

a. The Bible is our ultimate authority. The Bible has a unique authority. The Bible is infallible and in the original manuscripts inerrant.

b. The Bible is sufficient. The Bible alone informs us how to think about all of the issues of life, which includes worship and music.

What are Our Assumptions?

- 2. The Bible provides numerous examples of worship which is accepted and approved by God, and worship that is unacceptable and is rejected by God.**
 - a. Frequently, the standards by which the worship is accepted and rejected have not been revealed to us, to that point, but they were known.**
 - b. God always condemned worship which was unauthorized and some of it involved immediate death.**

What are Our Assumptions?

3. The biblical emphasis limits the authority of church leaders to introduce into corporate worship only what God's Word allows.

We either let God define for us what worship is, or we impose our own ideas on it, and then adjust our services to conform to what we think is worship.

Isa. 6:1, “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.

Isa. 6:2, “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.”

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Uzziah died *ca.* 742 BC: He was one of the very best of the kings of Judah.

A time of political uncertainty.

Isa. 6:3, “And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!’ ”

**קָדוֹשׁ *qadosh* masc sing abs holy, unique,
distinct, one of a kind, set apart**

**כְּבוֹד *kavod* comm masc sing constr heavy,
weighty, important, also liver**

ESSENCE OF GOD

Holy

Sovereign

Omniscient

Righteousness

Omnipresent

Justice

Omnipotent

Love

Veracity

Eternal Life

Immutability

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

The Meaning of Worship



Introductory Principles of Corporate Worship

- 1. God defines worship. He defines how we worship, and the conditions of worship.**
- 2. Worship is not determined by how we feel, but by our conformity to God's righteousness and His revelation.**
- 3. Worship means to "bow down to God." Thus worship signifies submission to God's will.**

Introductory Principles of Corporate Worship

4. Worship has order and structure.

1 Cor. 14:33, “For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”

Introductory Principles of Corporate Worship

5. Worship, like everything else in our thinking, talking, and actions, is not to be shaped by the ideology of our culture.

Rom. 12:2, “And do not be pressed into the mold of the spirit of the age [the *zeitgeist* of the culture], but be transformed by making your thinking new, that you may demonstrate that the will of God is good and acceptable and complete.”

***αἰών aiōn* (m) age, time period within a culture of a civilization
zeitgeist, German for the “spirit of the times”**

The Meaning of “Worship”

1. How should we define “worship”?

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The English derives from the Old English *weorthscipe* ‘worthiness, acknowledgement of worth’ (see worth, -ship). ~COED

1 The feeling (?) or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity.

4 *archaic* honour given in recognition of merit.

The Meaning of “Worship”

1. How should we define “worship”?

Elwell: *Webster’s Dictionary* for the precise meaning of worship (adore, idolize, esteem worthy, reverence, homage, etc.). “Yet truly defining worship proves more difficult because it is both an attitude and an act.”

The Meaning of “Worship”

1. How should we define “worship”?

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible:

Expression of reverence and adoration of God. This involved meditation, the study of God’s Word

COED: reverence: deep respect

adore: worship or venerate (deep respect)

The Meaning of “Worship”

1. How should we define “worship”?

***New Bible Dictionary: WORSHIP.* ‘Worship’ (Old English ‘weorthscipe’=‘worth-ship’) originally referred to the action of human beings in expressing homage to God because he is worthy of it. It covers such activities as adoration, thanksgiving, prayers of all kinds, the offering of sacrifice and the making of vows.**

The Meaning of “Worship”

How should we define “worship?”

Pocket Dictionary of Theology:

worship: the act of adoring and praising God, that is, ascribing worth to God as the one who deserves homage and service. The church, which is to be a worshiping community (1 Pet. 2:5), expresses its worship corporately and publicly (liturgically) through prayer; through psalms, hymns and spiritual songs; through the reading and exposition of Scripture; through observance of the sacraments; and through individual and corporate living in holiness and service.

The Meaning of “Worship”

1 Pet. 2:5, “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Eph. 2:19, “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Eph. 2:20, “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

Eph. 2:21, “in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

Eph. 2:22, “in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

οἶκος
oikos
house

οἰκεῖος
oikeios
household,
a family
group
dwelling
together

Biblical Uses of Worship

Gen. 22:5, “And Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.’ ”

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to bow, to prostrate oneself, to worship**

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***nishtachaweh* חוה-2 *chawah*-2 hishtaf imperf 1 com plur to bow, to prostrate oneself, to worship**

Neh. 8:6, “And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, ‘Amen, Amen!’ while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.”

Biblical Uses of Worship

Matt. 2:2, “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 worship Him.’ ”

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προσκυνέω *proskuneō* 60 ✕

aor act infin

to fall down to worship;

to do obeisance; to

submit to authority

Biblical Uses of Worship

“Worship” is primarily a mental attitude of submission to God.

Worship is not a feeling, but a mental attitude, even when we do not *feel* so worshipful.

Biblical Uses of Worship

John 4:23, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father by means of the Spirit and by means of Truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

John 4:24, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship by means of the Spirit and by means of Truth.”

Biblical Uses of Worship

Php. 3:3, “For we are the [spiritual] circumcision, who worship God by means of the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,”

A working definition:

True Worship is:

The celebration of being in covenant [eternal] fellowship with the sovereign and holy triune God,

By means of

- The reverent adoration and spontaneous praise of God's nature and works,**
- The expressed commitment of trust and obedience to the covenant responsibilities, and**
- The memorial reenactment of entering into covenant through ritual acts,**

All with the confident anticipation of the fulfillment of the covenant promises in glory.