

## Four Misconceptions About Worship 10-09-16

### The Significance of Worship

The Scriptures speak often about the nature of the worship of God. Much of the Law of Moses is dedicated to the actions of the worship by the body of Israel. When these laws were broken, God's wrath came upon the Israelites. God usually used the idea of the intimacy of marriage and the infidelity of adultery to describe worship and the worship of other gods. There are three core truths about worship that the Scriptures reveal:

1: Any relationship with God requires WORSHIP in addition to obedience

*Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him" John 9:31*

2: WORSHIP is not just anything we do

*"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24*

3: The wrong WORSHIP is dangerous

*The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination, how much more when he brings it with evil intent!*  
Proverbs 21:27

At the core of worship is an important word: REVERENCE. This word means to be in a (fearful) awe of something. Consider a place like the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, or inside the Alamo in San Antonio. Both places expect (demand) reverence when they are visited. So it is with the worship of God. *Worship the LORD with reverence and rejoice with trembling* (Psalm 2:11). Learning reverence means learning what worship is NOT.

### #1: Worship is NOT One Thing

The passages that deal the most with worship in the New Covenant are 1 Corinthians 11-14. Chapter 11 deals with communion and tells us that the central part of the assembly of worship is the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20). But it makes it clear that this is not all that the worship assembly entails. 1 Corinthians 14:3-4 tells us that it includes speaking exhortation. 1 Corinthians 14:15 tells us that it includes singing and prayer. In a few chapters (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) it includes the collection.

What is the application of this point? Many understand that communion is central to worship, but then miss the point that other things are necessary too. They come ONLY prepared to take communion, and then leave. They have NOT accomplished the worship of God, but have only acted with irreverence.

## **#2: Worship is NOT All The Time**

In Romans 12:1-2 and Colossians 3:17 Scriptures speak about our spiritual service to God. There are a few translations of the Bible that call this worship, but contextually, it is not. This service is described in the subsequent passages of Colossians 3 as our day to day service in Christ. Our Christian activities are a service to God. Our service INCLUDES worship; we owe God BOTH.

What is the application of this point? Some people are in the habit of forsaking the assembly of worship (Heb. 10:25) because they see all of their activities as an act of worship. Calling day to day activities “worship” is NOT worship. It is either ignorance of the passages of worship, or disregard for the sake of self satisfaction.

## **#3: Worship is NOT About You**

In 1 Peter 2:5 we are called to the work of priests for the purpose of pleasing God. Consider the thanksgiving offerings of Leviticus; we are still meant, as part of worship, to offer thanksgiving sacrifices to God. In Hebrews 13:15 we are told to do so. Consider too Hebrews 10:23-25 and 1 Corinthians 11:33. Both of these passages speak to worship, but remind us to be mindful of the other Saints gathered to worship.

What is the application of this point? Too many times Christians walk into worship and want to find what appeals to them. Sometimes people even choose a church that offers things that please them, and not God. Insisting that we enjoy worship is NOT worship.

## **#4: Worship is NOT An Emotional Act**

In Malachi 2:13-14 God told Israel that their tears were meaningless in worship (Consider Hebrews 12:17 and Esau’s tears). Many people think that for worship to be spiritual, it must be emotional. However, emotional is not the same as spiritual. Scriptures reveal that “Spiritual” pertains to an understanding of God (1 Corinthians 2). Many people crave an emotional experience in worship, but they are starved of spiritual food. Worship MAY or MAY NOT elicit emotions; it is not wrong to be moved to emotions in worship, but it is not evidence that worship was either successful or

What is the application of this point? Simply being moved to tears or joy is NOT worship. Worship is spiritual and truthful, and requires us to be brought to an understanding of the meaning of worship. Consider again 1 Corinthians 11; if someone does not understand communion, they should not partake, for they risk bringing judgment on themselves.

## **Conclusion:**

Some want to remove reverence from worship. They make it a common occurrence, or avoid congregational responsibilities. Some are there just for self-satisfaction. These things are irreverent. We were joined together for worship of God.