

True Worship
Psalm 95
Ronnie Morris

Big Idea: True worship is lived out in community, joyful, submissive to God, and finds its full expression in obedience to his voice.

Definition of worship: At minimum, worship is a holistic response to God that displays his supreme worth and holiness and is made possible by his mercy.

I. TRUE WORSHIP IS LIVED OUT IN COMMUNITY

- A. *Image bearers* – We better reflect God when we worship in community (Genesis 1:28; multiply and fill the earth as image bearers).
- B. *Maturity* – We grow to maturity in Christ in the context of community (Ephesians 4:15-16).
- C. *Authentication* – We display our unity in Christ through community as an ultimate apologetic to the truth of the gospel (John 17:23; John 13:35; Galatians 3:28).

II. TRUE WORSHIP IS JOYFUL (1-5)

Three reasons for our joy:

- 1. God is the rock of our salvation (1).
- 2. God is present with us (2).
- 3. God is the great King above all gods (3-5).

Why we sing:

Singing engages our mind and emotions in ways spoken words do not.

III. TRUE WORSHIP IS SUBMISSIVE TO GOD (6-7)

- 1. We belong to him (6).
- 2. He is our God (7).

“In contrast to the exuberance of the first five verses, which fits with the postures of standing or even dancing, each of the three verbs in verse 6 have to do with getting low before God, since the Hebrew word for ‘worship’ here literally means to prostrate oneself. We are to bow reverently, to kneel humbly before God, admitting our sinfulness and dependence. While adoration comes from seeing a God of glory, submission comes from seeing a God of grace, one who is *our* covenant God, who redeemed us and brought us as sheep into his fold.” – Tim Keller

IV. TRUE WORSHIP FINDS ITS FULL EXPRESSION IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S VOICE (7-11)

- A) The Shepherd's sheep hear his voice and obey (7).
 - a. We must know the Word of God (Romans 10:17)
 - b. To hear is to obey (Matthew 10:29).
- B) False sheep harden their hearts through disobedience (8-11).
 - a. 10 Plagues (Exodus 6-12)
 - b. Glory of the Lord in a cloud and fire (Exodus 13)
 - c. Red Sea (Exodus 14)
 - d. Bitter water turned sweet (Exodus 15)
 - e. Manna from Heaven (Exodus 16)
 - f. Water from the rock at Rephidim (Exodus 17, Meribah and Massah)
 - g. Promise of Canaan (Numbers 13-14)
 - h. Water from the rock at Kadesh (Numbers 20, Moses judged)
- C) Disobedience is rooted in unbelief (James 1:14-15; Hebrews 3:12-19).
- D) The Shepherd's sheep hear his voice better together (Hebrews 3:12-13).
- E) True worship moves us to make disciples of all people for God's glory (Psalm 95, 96; Matthew 28:18-20).

“When the flame of worship burns with the heat of God's true worth, the light of missions will shine to the darkest peoples on earth. And I long for that day to come! Where passion for God is weak, zeal for missions will be weak. Churches that are not centered on the exaltation of the majesty and beauty of God will scarcely kindle a fervent desire to ‘declare *his* glory among the nations’ (Ps. 96:3). Even outsiders feel the disparity between the boldness of our claim upon the nations and the blandness of our engagement with God.” – John Piper