

IGNITE INSTITUTE | HOW TO GROW

CLASS 2: ALL OF LIFE WORSHIP

Worship is an act of acknowledging and acclaiming the majestic greatness of God in ways that he prescribes.⁶

Gregg R. Allison

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What does the Bible say about worship?

INTRODUCTION

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word, “worship?”

1. Corporate Worship

→ Sunday morning/Liturgy

2. “All of Life” Worship

→ Monday – Saturday

Not about adding something extra to do, but about making everything you do worship

3. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.⁷ (Westminster Confession of Faith)

→ Man was created to worship.

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” (Revelation 5:13)

→ Man either worships man or God.

- In our sin, we worship ourselves.
- In our sin, we worship idols.
- In righteousness, we worship the one true God.

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:21-23)

→ Is God the object of your worship?

Worship is more about who you’re worshipping than anything else. Since God is the object of our worship, and he never changes, then our worship should not be affected by our circumstances.

⁶ Allison, G. R. (2018). *50 core truths of the Christian faith: A guide to understanding and teaching theology.* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books), 338.

⁷ *Westminster Confession of Faith.* (Glasgow: Free Presbyterian Publications, 2003), 287.

Exercise: Read Psalm 95, Psalm 96, Psalm 97, Psalm 98, Psalm 99 (one per group), and share observations about worship from each passage.

Question for Meditation: In what ways do you exchange the glory of the immortal God for mortal images?

DEFINING WORSHIP (WHAT)

Today, our focus is on the “all of life,” Monday through Saturday, worship.

1. Biblical worship is the full-life response – head, heart, and hands – to who God is and what he has done.⁸ (Chris Collins)

→ What does it mean to worship God with your head? Heart? Hands?

- Knowing, loving, and then responding to God as our greatest treasure.
- The knowledge of who God is should result in praise from your mouth and praise through your deeds.

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)

2. Anything that we do can be considered worship.

→ What are some ways to worship in the everyday?

- Any act done in faith and obedience with the goal of glorifying God is worship.⁹ (Gregg R. Allison)

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24)

REASONS TO WORSHIP (WHY)

1. We worship God because of who he is.

Because of God’s eternal weight and glory, he alone is worthy of all our reverence and worship.

Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? (Exodus 15:11)

And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” (Revelation 4:8)

“[God] does not need the church’s worship because he lacks glory, or needs to be appeased, or to merit his favor!”¹⁰ (Gregg R. Allison)

2. We worship God because of his works in creation and redemption.

→ Consider God’s act of creation.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! (Psalm 95:6)

⁸ Collins, C. (2015, October 25). *Worship – A Biblical Definition*. Retrieved from <https://www.vergenetwork.org/2014/05/07/worship-a-biblical-definition/>

⁹ Allison, G. R. (2018). *50 core truths of the Christian faith: A guide to understanding and teaching theology.*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books), 342.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 340.

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (Revelation 4:11)

“God has created everything to be oriented to his glory.”¹¹ (Gregg Allison)

Q: How have you experienced God’s glory in creation?

→ Consider God’s act of redemption.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace... (Ephesians 1:7)

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. (Hebrews 9:15)

Q: What has God accomplished through Jesus on your behalf that you can praise him for?

MANNER OF WORSHIP (HOW)

1. With Reverence (deep respect)

The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.” (Exodus 34:5-9)

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. (Psalm 5:7)

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:28-29)

“We bow in respect and honor before God, paying Him the glory due His superior character.”¹² (John MacArthur)

Q: Do you have a right fear of the Lord?

2. In Spirit and in Truth

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ (Matthew 15:8-9)

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for

¹¹ Allison, G. R. (2018). *50 core truths of the Christian faith: A guide to understanding and teaching theology*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books), 343.

¹² MacArthur, J. (1982, January 03). True Worship, Part 1. Retrieved from <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/2004/true-worship-part-1>.

the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:21-24)

“You can do as many deeds as you want and go to as many church services as you want and never be worshipping if it is all external and nothing is happening in your heart toward God.”¹³ (John Piper)

“The heart cannot love what the mind does not know.”¹⁴ (Jen Wilkin)

“The heart can only go as high in worship as it is deep in theology.” (John MacArthur)

HOW TO GROW

How can we grow in Biblical worship?

1. Live Obediently

Sin is a barrier for true worship. Practice daily repentance.

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (John 14:15)

2. Live Sacrificially

Worship involves sacrifice. The greatest act of worship was the God the Father’s sacrifice of his Son, Jesus, on the cross.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1)

3. Live Gratefully

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! (Psalm 100:4)

CONCLUSION

As we learned last week, spiritual disciplines are a means to an end, but are not the end themselves. Worship, on the other hand, is an end. It is a means to godliness and it is an end because it is what we were made for. We look forward to worship for eternity – people from every tribe, tongue, and nation worshipping God forever. One day, we will no longer be tainted by sin so everything we do will be motivated by our love for the Lord and we will experience perfect fellowship with him. As we look forward to that day, let’s be faithful in striving to live lives marked by theologically deep, heart-filled worship right now.

The inner essence of worship is to know God truly and then respond from the heart to that knowledge by valuing God, treasuring God, prizing God, enjoying God, being satisfied with God above all earthly things. And then that deep, restful, joyful satisfaction in God overflows in demonstrable acts of praise from the lips and demonstrable acts of love in serving other for the sake of Christ.¹⁵

John Piper

¹³ Piper, John (2016, April 29). *What is Worship?*. Retrieved from <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-worship>.

¹⁴ Wilkin, Jen (2014). *Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds.*, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway), 31.

¹⁵ Piper, John (2016, April 29). *What is Worship?*. Retrieved from <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-worship>.