



## WHO Before HOW Psalm 96:8-9; John 4:21-24 September 5, 2021 | Dr. Jimmy Stewart

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### Sermon Summary

We often get our letters confused! We mix them up. Rather than focusing our worship on WHO we focus on HOW. Whenever we take our eyes off the Lord we begin to sink and our worship stinks! When we lock in to a style, method, component, element, surroundings, person leading or even a printed order of worship, we are in danger of missing the true object, focus and purpose of worship. We remember HOW we worshipped when we were children or young adults or when we were saved and we only want to worship God in specific ways that are known, familiar and comfortable to us. When we do, we are focusing on the HOW and when this happens, we are at risk of losing sight of the WHO. It's not that HOW is unimportant, its just not the most important aspect of worship and it never should it be. In Worship, always keep the WHO before the HOW.

### Diving Into The Message

**WHO** is on FIRST ~ Christ-Centered Worship!

**HOW** will never be as important as **WHO**. We may not get the **HOW** right every time but we should never confuse the two or get the order of priority wrong. Worship by definition is not about us but about God.

“Worship is the loving ascription of praise to God for what he is in himself and in his providential dealings. It is the bowing of our innermost spirit before him in deepest humility and reverence. Worship is the adoring contemplation of God as he has been pleased to reveal himself in his son and in the Scriptures.”

**J. Oswald Sanders**

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!  
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth! Psalm 96:8-9*

If the focus of my worship becomes about what I want or what I like or what benefits me or is my preference, I am focusing on the **HOW** and I have become the **WHO**.

**WHO** is the standard! **HOW** is not the standard of what constitutes appropriate or correct Worship, **WHO** is the standard! Jesus Christ our savior and our Heavenly Father must be the focus and object of worship.

*18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. 20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*

**John 17:18-23**

**Worship the Creator not what is created.**

*Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.*

**Romans 1:24-25**

**Worship is not limited to place and time.**

*21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.*

**John 4:21-22**

**Worship must be in spirit and truth.**

*23 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. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."*

**John 4:23-24**

"Worship is not an experience. Worship is an act, and this takes discipline. We are to worship "in spirit and in truth." Never mind about the feelings. We are to worship in spite of them."

**Elisabeth Elliot**

**Worship is presenting yourself to God.**

*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**



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**Life Application Questions**

1. Describe a time when worship was exactly as you know it should be. What was happening?  
Who was the focus?
2. What do you need to do to keep your focus on Jesus and our Heavenly Father as One as you Worship?
3. In what ways do you present yourself to the Lord as an act of worship?
4. What things distract you from worship? Should they? What steps can you take to avoid being distracted as you worship?
5. What can you do to help and encourage others as they worship?
6. What role does singing play in worship? Preaching? Praying? Offering? Invitation?
7. What steps can you take to make sure that your worship is what it should be?