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WHAT IS WORSHIP?

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WHAT IS WORSHIP?

- ORIGINATES FROM THE OLD ENGLISH WORD *WEORTHSCIFE*, MEANING “WORTH-SHIP.”
- IMPLIES GIVING WORTH OR VALUE TO GOD.



WILLIAM TEMPLE

“WORSHIP IS THE SUBMISSION OF ALL OUR NATURE TO GOD. IT IS THE QUICKENING OF CONSCIENCE BY HIS HOLINESS; THE NOURISHMENT OF MIND WITH HIS TRUTH; THE PURIFYING OF IMAGINATION BY HIS BEAUTY; THE OPENING OF THE HEART TO HIS LOVE; THE SURRENDER OF WILL TO HIS PURPOSE - AND ALL OF THIS GATHERED UP IN ADORATION, THE MOST SELFLESS EMOTION OF WHICH OUR NATURE IS CAPABLE AND THEREFORE THE CHIEF REMEDY FOR THAT SELF-CENTEREDNESS WHICH IS OUR ORIGINAL SIN AND THE SOURCE OF ALL ACTUAL SIN.”



JOHN FRAME

“REDEMPTION IS THE MEANS; WORSHIP IS THE GOAL. IN ONE SENSE, WORSHIP IS THE WHOLE POINT OF EVERYTHING. IT IS THE PURPOSE OF HISTORY, THE GOAL OF THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN STORY. WORSHIP IS NOT ONE SEGMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AMONG OTHERS. WORSHIP IS THE ENTIRE CHRISTIAN LIFE, SEEN AS A PRIESTLY OFFERING TO GOD. AND WHEN WE MEET TOGETHER AS A CHURCH, OUR TIME OF WORSHIP IS NOT MERELY A PRELIMINARY TO SOMETHING ELSE; RATHER, IT IS THE WHOLE POINT OF OUR EXISTENCE AS THE BODY OF CHRIST.”



LOUIE GIGLIO

“WORSHIP IS OUR RESPONSE, BOTH PERSONAL AND CORPORATE, TO GOD FOR WHO HE IS, AND WHAT HE HAS DONE; EXPRESSED IN AND BY THE THINGS WE SAY AND THE WAY WE LIVE.”



JOHN BEVERE

“WORSHIP IS NOT MERELY A SLOW SONG
WE SING IN A CHURCH SERVICE. WORSHIP
IS A LIFESTYLE OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD.”



WORSHIP DEFINED

- LEXHAM THEOLOGICAL WORKBOOK
DEFINES WORSHIP AS THE “AWED
RESPONSE TO THE SAVING ACTS AND
PRAISEWORTHY CHARACTER OF GOD.”

WORSHIP DEFINED

- EASTON'S BIBLE DICTIONARY DEFINES WORSHIP AS HOMAGE RENDERED TO GOD, WHICH IS SINFUL (IDOLATRY) TO RENDER TO ANY OTHER CREATED BEING.
- SUCH WORSHIP WAS REFUSED BY PETER (ACTS 10:25-26) AND BY AN ANGEL (REV 22:8-9).



EXODUS 34:14 (NKJV)

*(FOR YOU SHALL WORSHIP NO OTHER
GOD, FOR THE LORD, WHOSE NAME IS
JEALOUS, IS A JEALOUS GOD),*



ACTS 10:25-26 (NKJV)

AS PETER WAS COMING IN, CORNELIUS MET HIM AND FELL DOWN AT HIS FEET AND WORSHIPED HIM. ²⁶ BUT PETER LIFTED HIM UP, SAYING, "STAND UP; I MYSELF AM ALSO A MAN."



REVELATION 22:8-9 (NKJV)

NOW I, JOHN, SAW AND HEARD THESE THINGS. AND WHEN I HEARD AND SAW, I FELL DOWN TO WORSHIP BEFORE THE FEET OF THE ANGEL WHO SHOWED ME THESE THINGS. ⁹ THEN HE SAID TO ME, “SEE THAT YOU DO NOT DO THAT. FOR I AM YOUR FELLOW SERVANT, AND OF YOUR BRETHREN THE PROPHETS, AND OF THOSE WHO KEEP THE WORDS OF THIS BOOK. WORSHIP GOD.”



MARK LABBERTON

“LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF THE LOVE OF THE TRIUNE GOD IS SUPPOSED TO BE OUR HUMAN VOCATION. OUR VERY LIFE IS MADE FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND ALL OUR ENERGIES ARE BEST DISCOVERED AND UNLEASHED WHEN WE SEE THEM IN THIS CONTEXT AND FOR THIS PURPOSE. A FULL VISION OF WORSHIP ENCOMPASSES EVERY DIMENSION OF LIFE. WORSHIP ACTIVELY PLACES US BEFORE THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD AND CALLS US TO RESPOND WITH EVERY DIMENSION OF WHO WE ARE.”



ADORE

- EASTON'S BIBLE DICTIONARY DEFINES ADORE AS "TO EXPRESS REVERENCE AND HOMAGE."
- WE CANNOT PROPERLY WORSHIP THE LORD UNLESS WE TRULY FEAR THE LORD.



FEAR OF THE LORD

“HAVING A DEEP REVERENCE, AWE, AND ADORATION FOR HIS HOLINESS, WHICH RESULTS IN TOTAL OBEDIENCE. A VOLUNTARY, LOVING SUBMISSION THAT COMPELS BELIEVERS TO DEPART FROM EVIL AND HONOR GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE.”

-JOHN BEVERE



GENESIS 22:5 (NKJV)

*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.”*



FEAR OF THE LORD

- GOD LINKS THE WORD “WORSHIP” TO TOTAL OBEDIENCE AND SURRENDER TO HIS WILL.
- THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS NOT ONLY OBEYING HIS WILL; IT IS FULFILLING ALL HIS WILL.



FEAR OF THE LORD

- WORSHIP HAPPENS WHEN WE VOLUNTARILY, LOVINGLY, AND WILLINGLY SUBMIT OUR COMPLETE WILL TO HIS.
- FEARING GOD MEANS OBEYING HIM IMMEDIATELY, COMPLETELY, AND WITHOUT HESITATION, EVEN WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT.



PROVERBS 1:7 (NKJV)

*THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING
OF KNOWLEDGE,*



PROVERBS 2:1-5 (NKJV)

¹MY SON, IF YOU RECEIVE MY WORDS, AND TREASURE MY COMMANDS WITHIN YOU, ² SO THAT YOU INCLINE YOUR EAR TO WISDOM, AND APPLY YOUR HEART TO UNDERSTANDING; ³ YES, IF YOU CRY OUT FOR DISCERNMENT, AND LIFT UP YOUR VOICE FOR UNDERSTANDING, ⁴ IF YOU SEEK HER AS SILVER, AND SEARCH FOR HER AS FOR HIDDEN TREASURES; ⁵ THEN YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE FEAR OF THE LORD, AND FIND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.



KNOWLEDGE

- THE DICTIONARY OF BIBLICAL LANGUAGES DEFINES KNOWLEDGE AS “INFORMATION OF A PERSON, WITH A STRONG IMPLICATION OF RELATIONSHIP TO THAT PERSON.”



KNOWLEDGE

- VINES EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY TELLS US THAT THE WORD FOR KNOWLEDGE IMPLIES “TO HAVE AN INTIMATE EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. POSITIVELY, KNOWING GOD IS PARALLELED TO FEARING HIM.”



INTIMACY

- FEARING THE LORD IS CONNECTED TO TREASURING HIS COMMANDS.
- TREASURING HIS COMMANDS IS CONNECTED TO INCLINING YOUR EAR TO HIS WORD, WITH ALL READINESS TO OBEY, NO MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES
- TO BE INTIMATE WITH THE LORD REQUIRES REVERENCE AND COMPLETE OBEDIENCE TO HIM.



JAMES 1:22 (NKJV)

***BUT BE DOERS OF THE WORD, AND NOT
HEARERS ONLY, DECEIVING YOURSELVES.***



DECEPTION

“THE DECEIVED TAKE COMFORT IN A
KNOWLEDGE OF GOD THEY SIMPLY DO NOT
POSSESS.”

-JOHN BEVERE



ISAIAH 29:13 (NKJV)

THEREFORE THE LORD SAID:

***“INASMUCH AS THESE PEOPLE DRAW NEAR
WITH THEIR MOUTHS AND HONOR ME WITH
THEIR LIPS, BUT HAVE REMOVED THEIR
HEARTS FAR FROM ME, AND THEIR FEAR
TOWARD ME IS TAUGHT BY THE
COMMANDMENT OF MEN,”***



DECEPTION

- WHEN WORSHIP BECOMES ONLY ABOUT RITUALS AND EXTERNALS AND NOT OUR HEARTS, THEN IT IS NOT WORSHIP. IT IS DECEPTION.
- IT IS HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS, BUT DENYING ITS POWER, ACCORDING TO 2 TIMOTHY 3:5.



GENESIS 4:4-5 (NKJV)

ABEL ALSO BROUGHT OF THE FIRSTBORN OF HIS FLOCK AND OF THEIR FAT. AND THE LORD RESPECTED ABEL AND HIS OFFERING, ⁵ BUT HE DID NOT RESPECT CAIN AND HIS OFFERING. AND CAIN WAS VERY ANGRY, AND HIS COUNTENANCE FELL.



WHAT WORSHIP IS NOT

- WORSHIP DOES NOT BEGIN AND END WITH THE SINGING PORTION OF OUR CHURCH SERVICES.
- WORSHIP IS NOT ABOUT MUSIC, ALTHOUGH MUSIC IS OFTEN USED IN WORSHIP.



WHAT WORSHIP IS NOT

- WORSHIP IS NOT ABOUT RITUAL OR ARTISTRY, ALTHOUGH RITUAL AND ART CAN BE VALID EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP.
- WORSHIP IS NOT ABOUT EXPRESSING OURSELVES, ALTHOUGH DAVID'S "DANCING BEFORE THE LORD WITH ALL HIS MIGHT" WAS AN ACT OF TRUE WORSHIP IN 2 SAMUEL 6:14.



WHAT WORSHIP IS NOT

- WORSHIP IS NOT LIMITED TO BOWING IN REVERENCE BEFORE GOD, ALTHOUGH THIS CAN BE AN ACT OF WORSHIP.



WHAT WORSHIP IS

- WORSHIP IS DETERMINED BY GOD HIMSELF, NOT BY OUR SINCERITY, PIOUS FEELINGS, OR MUSICAL SKILL.
- TRUE WORSHIP IS ABOUT GOD AND GOD ALONE. IT IS ABOUT SEEING GOD AND REVERENCING GOD FOR WHO HE TRULY IS, NOT WHO WE TRY TO MAKE HIM BE.



WHAT WORSHIP IS

- WORSHIP IS ABOUT REVERENCING, HONORING, AND ADORING HIM, NOT SIMPLY BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DOES FOR US BUT FOR WHO HE IS.
- WORSHIP IS ABOUT UNDERSTANDING WHO IS BEING WORSHIPED.



HEBREWS 12:28 (NKJV)

THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE RECEIVING A KINGDOM WHICH CANNOT BE SHAKEN, LET US HAVE GRACE, BY WHICH WE MAY SERVE GOD ACCEPTABLY WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR.



GREEK WORDS FOR WORSHIP

- **LATREUÓ** - “SERVE” (HEB. 12:28)
- **THERAPEUO** - “THERAPY” (MATT. 4:23)
- **PROSKUNEÓ** - PAYING HOMAGE (1 COR. 14:25)
- **SEBÁZOMAI** - TO RENDER RELIGIOUS HONOR (ROMANS 1:25)
- **SÉBOMAI** - TO REVERE OR ADORE (ACTS 16:14)



TRUE WORSHIP

- TRUE WORSHIP COMES FROM UNDERSTANDING WHO IS BEING WORSHIPPED.
- GOD IS HOLY, JUST, PERFECT, POWERFUL, AND LOVING.
- WE ARE SINNERS SAVED BY GRACE COMING BEFORE A HOLY GOD ON THE BASIS OF OUR REDEEMER.



TRUE WORSHIP

- TRUE WORSHIP MUST BE “IN TRUTH,” THAT IS, OUR WORSHIP MUST BE PROPERLY INFORMED.
- JOHN 4:24 - ***GOD IS SPIRIT, AND THOSE WHO WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH.***
- UNLESS WE HAVE ACCURATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOD WE WORSHIP, THERE IS NO WORSHIPING IN TRUTH.



PROPER BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

- A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP WILL RESULT IN WORSHIP THAT PRODUCES A CHANGE OF HEART.
- THE WORSHIPER WILL HAVE AN EVER GREATER DESIRE TO LOVE AND OBEY THE LORD.
- WORSHIP AND SERVICE GO HAND IN HAND; WORSHIP OF GOD SHOULD PROPEL US INTO GREATER OBEDIENCE.



JOHN 14:15 (NKJV)

“IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.”



PROPER BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

- A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP LEADS TO THE CONVICTION THAT WORSHIP IS A LIFESTYLE, NOT A MOMENT IN TIME.
- WORSHIP IS TO BE MORE THAN A TEMPORARY, EXPERIENCE-ORIENTED ACTIVITY ON SUNDAY, AFTER WHICH WE REVERT TO A “NORMAL” LIFE THE REST OF THE WEEK.



PROPER BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

- TRUE WORSHIP IS CONSTANT, INNER PRAISE TO THE GOD OF SCRIPTURE, EXPRESSED IN PRAYER, IN SONG, IN SERVICE, IN GIVING, AND IN LIVING.

