

Worship That Glorifies God

The Chief End of Man
is to Glorify God



Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this
is the whole duty of man. (Eccl. 12:13)

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▪ **Introduction:**

- Many believers do not worship the Lord properly.
- Many Christians have their own ideas about how God should be worshiped.
- Since God reveals Himself through His Word, we should learn from Scripture how He desires to be worshiped.

▪ **What is Worship?**

1. General terms for Worship

a) To bow down and to kneel before God

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. (Psalm 95:6)

b) To stretch out one's hands toward God

And he stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands: (II Chronicles 6:12-14)

c) To prostrate oneself in God's presence

And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, (Genesis 17:3)

And he said, Nay; but *as* captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? (Joshua 5:14)

d) To clap one's hands in Joy to God

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. (Psalm 47:1)

Worship, is the act of expressing Glory Honor, Reverence, Admiration, and Esteem to Almighty God.

a) Worship ascribes value or worth to Almighty God; it is a natural response to who God is

Give (*Ascribe*) unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength.” **(Psalm 29:1)**

Give (*Ascribe*) unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

(Psalm 29:2) see Psalm 27:4

- *God alone deserves Worship*
- *God alone should be Worshipped*
The Lord is a jealous God (Ex. 34:14; Deut. 4:24; 6:15; Zech. 8:2)

b) Praise describes the attributes of God

- **God is:** Holy, Love, Just, Good, Gracious, Faithful,
- **God is:** Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Eternal, Sovereign, Immutable
 - Praise is different from worship, but it is often included as part worship.
 - Worship goes much deeper; **it is a posture an attitude of the heart.**

2. Practical aspects of Worship

- We need to know God and love Him supremely

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

(Mt. 22:37)

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. **(Deut. 6:5)**

- God created humanity for His honor and glory.

Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

(Is. 43:7)

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. **(I Cor. 10:31)**

- The chief end of man is to know God and to glorify Him
Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.
(Eccl. 12:13)

3. Physical postures of Worship

The physical posture of worship expressed to God must be understood **as symbolic**. Physical postures such as:

*bowing down *kneeling *outstretched arms *clapping
*singing, *playing musical instruments, *any act of service for the LORD

All these physical expressions of worship should match the spiritual condition of one's heart.

4. Spiritual '**conditions**' of the heart:

- There must be a knowledge of God (Proverbs 1:29; 1:27-29; 2:1-5; Hosea 4:1; 6:6; Col. 1:10; I John 2:3-5)
- There must be sincerity before God (Joshua 24:14; Psalm 24:3-4)
- There must be humility and surrender to God (Luke 14:11; Psalm 69:30-32)
- There must be love and a loving obedience to God (Deut. 10:12; Joshua 22:5; I John 5:1-3)
- There must be a desire to honor and glorify to God (Isaiah 43:7; I Cor. 6:19-20)
- There must be a heart of reverence & and fear to God (**Eccl. 5:1-2**; Prov. 1:7; Rev. 4:11; Heb. 12:28:29)
- There must be a selfless devotion and service to God (Duet. 6:4-5; I Kings 8:61; Luke 16:13; Col. 3:17)

When a person's outward/physical posture does not match the condition of the heart, that worship becomes empty, hypocritical, and unacceptable to God.

- **How are your praise and worship?**
- **How are your preaching and teaching?**
- **How do you usher and greet the congregants?**
- **How do you clean and maintain the church?**
- **How is the posture of your heart?**

Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: (Isaiah 29:13)

Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, (Matthew 15:7)

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. (Matthew 15:8)

▪ **Worship that glorifies God**

Let us explore four distinctives of our worship that Glorifies God

I Worship that glorifies God should be offered submissively

Submission is a posture of the heart that obeys God.

a) The posture of believers must bring Glory to God by engaging in the right worship

▪ **Negative examples:**

- The posture of Cain (Genesis 4:1-13)
- The posture of Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-3)
- The posture of Saul (I Samuel 15:13-14; 22-23)

▪ **Positive examples**

- The posture of Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19)
- The posture of the woman with the alabaster box (Luke 7:36-50)
- The posture of the widow's mite (Mark 12:41-44)

b) The posture of believers must bring Glory to God by how they love

- Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (Mt. 22:37)
- And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (Mt. 22:39)
- But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; (Mt. 5:44)
 - Jonathan's friendship with David (I Sam. 18:1-3)
 - Ruth's steadfast love for Naomi (Ruth 1:16-18)
 - David's kindness to Mephibosheth (II Sam. 9:1-13)

II Worship that glorifies God should be offered sacrificially

Sacrifice is a posture of the heart that is ready to honor God.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

(Rom. 12:1)

- **We should offer our bodies as living sacrifices that honor and glorify God.**

****** The sinful nature is drawn toward evil, sin, and wickedness.

****** Old Testament believers were required to make animal sacrifices. New Testament believers are charged to present their bodies as a living sacrifice. [I John 2:15-16]

****** We are commanded to sacrifice (surrender) those sinful pleasures for the greater good of glorifying God

****** We are taught to sacrifice our bad habits for the spiritual priorities such as bringing Glory to, serving Him, and loving Him.

****** We are charged to sacrifice our choices, and preferences to bring honor and Glory to the Lord

****** For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (I John 2:16)

- **This sacrifice is your reasonable service or literally, this is the way to worship the Father!!**

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

(Rom. 12:2)

- a) The mind should be transformed that we may experience God's perfect will

- b) When we experience God's will; joy will be the result and God will be Glorified
- c) An earthly father is pleased when his children walk in the ways that are right; even so, our heavenly Father is **Glorified** when His children walk in the path of righteousness.

III Worship that glorifies God should be offered spotlessly

Spotless is a posture of the heart that embraces the perfections of God

Scripture teaches that God calls His children to live holy, godly lives because holiness reflects His own nature. He is perfectly holy, without fault or blemish.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, (Lev. 19:1)

Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God *am* holy. (Lev. 19:2)

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; (I Peter 1:15)

Because it is written, "**Be ye holy; for I am holy.**" (I Peter 1:16)

For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. (I Thess. 4:7)

To be holy means to be set apart from what is evil or wicked. However, God does not expect His children to be perfectly spotless or flawlessly holy. For this reason, He established the Levitical system in the Old Testament so His people could make atonement for their sins.

The Levitical system was temporary and was fulfilled through Jesus' sacrificial death on Calvary. Through Him, God provided a way for His children to live in holiness and enjoy fellowship with Him through the confession of sin (I John 1:9).

- Being right with God produces the fruit of righteousness (Proverbs 11:30; Philippians 1:11; Hebrews 12:11; James 3:18)
- The **works** of the flesh contrasted with the **fruit** of the spirit

It is important to observe that Paul uses 'fruit' of the spirit but 'not fruit' of the flesh. He uses fruit as a positive metaphor to highlight that which is good, positive, and to be desired.

IV Worship that pleases God should be offered specifically

Specificity is a posture of the heart that embraces God's instructions and do exactly what please Him.

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: (Deut. 28:1)

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. (Deut. 28:2)

- a) The carrying of the Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 25:10-15)
 - God gave specific instructions for how the Ark of the Covenant was to be handled for His Honor and Glory.
- b) The building of the Tabernacle of Moses Ex. Chapters 25-30
 - God is precise and gave precise instructions for how the Tabernacle was to be built.
- c) The building of Noah's Ark (Gen. 6:13-22)
 - God gave Noah exact dimensions for building the Ark so His will could be accomplished in judging sin and preserving a righteous family.

'God *is* a Spirit' and they that worship him must worship him **in spirit and in truth**. (John 4:24)

If we do not know God's Word, how would we know how to worship Him!

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