

# What is Worship?



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- You will not do anything in this world more important than worshiping God
- You do not come to worship “to get a blessing,” or for any other self-oriented purpose.
- We come together to give honor, respect, and reverence to the Lord God Almighty.
- There are 87 Hebrew and Greek words that are used to describe the concepts of praise and worship. There are over 600 references to praise and worship in the Bible.

# What is Worship?

- Worship literally fills the pages of Scripture from beginning to end.
- From Genesis 3 to Revelation 22, and all points in between, the Bible talks about worshiping God
- Worship is the absolute non-negotiable of the Christian life. The Christian must worship.
- The truly redeemed child of God cannot remain in Christ without worshiping God.
- It is as natural for a Christian to worship as it is for a person to breathe.

## Why Does God Require That We Worship Him?

- Worship means “to give honor, homage, reverence, respect, adoration, praise, or glory to a superior being.”
- God alone is worthy of worship because He alone is superior.
  - Rev. 4:11 - “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

# Why Does God Require That We Worship Him?

- Ex. 20:3-5 - “You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me”
- Rom. 12:1 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

# Why Does God Require That We Worship Him?

- Our eternal destiny depends on our worship of the true and living God.
  - Phil. 3:3 - “For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh”
  - John 4:23-24 - “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

## Why Does God Require That We Worship Him?

- It is our nature as God's children to worship Him
  - Acts 17:22-27
  - 2Thes. 2:10-11 - “and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie”

## Why Does God Require That We Worship Him?

- The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery says, “Worship is first and foremost a verb, an action” (p.970).
- The New Bible Dictionary, both the “Hebrew *aboda*, and the Greek *latreia* originally signified the labor of slaves or hired servants” (p. 1262)
- Worship is homage consisting of both an attitude of deep respect, adoration, reverence and awe and the activities designed to describe the position and worth of the One worshiped.

# Can We Not Worship?

- So high and great is Jesus that eventually the knees of everyone born or created will bend in reverent homage to Him.
  - Phil. 2:9-11 - “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

# Can We Not Worship?

- Matt. 28:18 - “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”
- Rom. 14:11 - “For it is written: As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.”
- Rev. 5:13 - “And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

# Can We Not Worship?

- There is no one else to choose
  - Matt. 4:9-10 - “And he said to Him, All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me. 10 Then Jesus said to him, Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”
- But we must choose to worship God
  - Psalm 45:10-11 - “Listen, O daughter, Consider and incline your ear; Forget your own people also, and your father's house; 11 So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He is your Lord, worship Him.”

# Can We Not Worship?

- He is so worthy of our worship, how can we do otherwise?
  - Psalm 99:5, 9 - “Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His footstool; He is holy... 9 Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the LORD our God is holy.”
  - Psalm 100:4-5 - “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. 5 For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.”

# Can We Not Worship?

- Ex. 34:5-8 - “Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation. 8 So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.”

# Can We Not Worship?

- Acts 10:24-26 - “And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 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.”
- Rev. 19:10 - “And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

# Can We Not Worship?

- Therefore, anyone who does not worship God, and Him only, is by default worshiping something other and lesser than He is.
- A man can rise no higher or be no stronger than his idol. Your job, your family, your pleasures, your plans, an athlete, entertainer or politician -- fallible, weak human beings.

# Can We Not Worship?

- Psalm 115:3-11 - “But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. 4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; 6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; 7 They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. 8 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them. 9 O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield. 10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield. 11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.”

# Can We Not Worship?

- Rom. 1:22-25 - “Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

# Can We Not Worship?

- Worship illuminates what we will be
  - 1Cor. 15:49 - “And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.”
  - 2Cor. 3:18 - “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

# Can We Not Worship?

- We worship Jesus now, but we will be like Him one day
  - 1John 3:1-3 - “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”
  - James 4:8 - “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you”