

Corporate Worship

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I. Introduction.

A. What made the aforementioned time worshipful?

1. Christ was exalted from the Word.
2. Christ was exalted from Song.
3. Christ was exalted in reading the Word.
4. Christ was exalted in the praying.

B. There was a corporate aspect to the worship.

II. Four things about worship.

A. Definition.

1. The Old Testament word for worship summarized in a word is prostrate or bow down. (Joshua 5:14; Psalm 95:6; Daniel 3:10)
2. The New Testament word is similar. They bowed down. (Matthew 2:2, 11)
3. If the President arrived we would stand. If Jesus Christ arrived we would bow.
4. The key is an attitude of bowing down.

B. Worship involves giving something - the highest of which is ourselves.

1. Genesis 22 is the first instant of worship. After the sacrifice they would come back and worship.
2. In Exodus 3:18 Moses called the Israelites into the desert to offer sacrifices. In Exodus 4 God says to let the Israelites go so that they could worship God.
3. The sacrifices of God are a broken and contrite spirit. (Psalm 51)
4. Worship involves bringing God something of value. (Proverbs 3:26)

C. Worship involves expressions of "worthship."

1. It may be translated as such.

2. In Revelation the elders said that God was worthy.

3. Doxologies of God are all throughout Scripture. (I Chronicles 29:11; Nehemiah 9; Psalm 104:1)

D. Worship originates with God. (Genesis 22; John 4:22)

III. What are other expressions of “worship” besides Word reading, praying, and singing?

A. It is difficult to worship in business.

B. Worship is the Christian’s highest occupation. (A study in Genesis 22)

1. It is based on a Revelation of God.

2. It is conditioned by faith in and obedience to the divine revelation.

3. It involves a costly presentation to God.

4. It necessitates a deliberate separation unto God.

5. It predicates the absolute renunciation of self.

6. It glorifies God.

7. It results in blessing to the worshipper.

IV. Conclusion - definition refined.

A. The overflow of a grateful heart under a sense of divine favor.

B. The outpouring of a soul at rest in the presence of God.

C. The occupation of the heart not with needs nor blessings, but with God himself.

D. The upspring of the heart that has known the Father as giver, the Son as savior, and the Holy Spirit as indwelling guest.

E. Simplification: worship involves...

1. An attitude.

2. An expression.

Application questions.

1. What observations about worship does the speaker make that are unique to your understanding of worship?

2. How does a New and Old Testament definition of worship help to illustrate what it actually is? How might this attitude manifest itself in the life of a believer?

3. What effect has this discussion had on you concerning corporate worship? How can you put this discussion into practical application in the body you worship in?
