



# **BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS**

---

Worship

---

## **1** INTRODUCTION

Imagine that you walk into church on a Sunday morning and see a group of people singing, lifting their hands, and clapping. It's strange. Why would a group of adults be singing so loudly with hands raised? Why would these adults be clapping or even cheering? Why does this group of people gather together, week in and week out? What drives all of this?

Perhaps these have been your thoughts. Are you confused about what would drive a group of people to act this way? The radio calls this singing worship. It's called worship music. There is a worship team on stage. It's a worship service. So in your mind, worship must be the singing happening each week.

Let's spend some time looking into what the Bible says about worship. What is it? Why should I do it? What should worship look like?

- 🔗 What is your definition of worship?

---

## **2** WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship, as we look at the word Biblically, is used in two primary ways. First, worship is an inward reality of your heart. Secondly, worship is an outward expression of that inward reality. This is primarily displayed in "corporate worship."

READ Matthew 15:8-9

- 🔗 What distinction does Jesus make about worship?

- 🔗 Does this verse speak to the inward reality or outward expression of worship?

READ Romans 12:1

What does the apostle Paul say is spiritual worship?

- ① Does this verse speak to the inward reality or outward expression of worship?

READ John 4:23-24

- ① According to this passage, what kind of worshippers is God seeking?

- ① How should those worshippers be worshipping?

### **1. WORSHIP IN TRUTH**

John 4:23-24 emphasizes that worship must be in spirit and in truth. We must worship what we know about God. Therefore, our worship of God is fueled by our understanding of God. The more deeply we know Him, the more passionately we can worship Him.

### **2. WORSHIP IN SPIRIT**

God wants our passion in worship. The Greek word used for “Spirit” is the word “Pneuma” which means “passionately or with our whole being.” God wants our whole life to be a passionate act of worship. God wants our whole being, both our inward reality and our outward expression, to be in passionate pursuit of worshipping Him.

Pastor and author John Piper said this about John 4:24,

*“I think the point is that when we worship — right worship, good worship, pleasing worship — depends on a right mental grasp of the way God really is truth. If we worship an idol of our own creation, we are not really worshipping God. And secondly, worship depends on a right spiritual or emotional or affectional heart grasp of God’s supreme value. So true worship is based on a right understanding of God’s nature and it is a right valuing of God’s worth.”*

The English word worship comes from “worth ship.” This means worship is literally showing or displaying the worth of God. We worship God when we know Him deeply and treasure Him according to what we know.

Our definition of worship formulated from the study of worship in Scripture is this:

*“Worship is our passionate response to God because of our awareness of who He is and our thankfulness for Him.”*

Worship is the magnification of God and the minimization of self.

In the New Testament in John 3:22-30, John the Baptist understood this concept. John had some followers who asked him, "What's going on John? This new guy, Jesus, is taking your job of baptizing." John responds with this statement, "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30) John understood this.

Jesus' authority and influence needed to increase, which meant that John needed to decrease. He needed to be less worried about himself and more worried about the authority and influence of Jesus. Like John, we need to understand this in order to become better worshippers: More Jesus and less me.

---

### **3** WORSHIP AS A LIFESTYLE

When we think about worship we tend to think about worship as singing, but worship is more than that. Worship is a lifestyle. Worship is the vertical and intentional outpouring of adoration to God.

#### **A. VERTICAL WORSHIP**

There is only one thing truly worthy of our worship: God. Our worship must be directed at God. If we maintain a horizontal focus in worship then we worship a false god. If we do not worship the one true God, we depart from worship all together.

To help you understand this concept, let's consider creation. It's easy to unintentionally worship creation. It is easy to be in awe of a beautiful sunrise, a panoramic view of a mountain range or the rainbow following a storm. When our awe is captured in these things, we begin to worship the created things, instead of being in awe of the God who created them. In our sinfulness, we have the ability to take anything God has created for us to enjoy, and turn it into something we worship. God gave us good things to enjoy. However, we often take those things and turn them into idols and begin to worship the created things instead of the Creator.

🔍 What things has God given you to enjoy that you have turned into objects of worship?

The main reason we worship is because God, in His great mercy and goodness, paid our greatest debt with the blood of His own Son, Jesus.

Jesus' sacrifice is the answer to our greatest need. This is the reason we worship. His sacrifice should ignite our hearts. Dwelling on the sacrifice of Jesus to defeat our sin fuels the inward reality of our worship. When the inward reality of our worship is fueled, the outward expression of worship will follow.

Anything that we do can be an act of worship when our intent is to direct worth and adoration back to God. Mindless activity that we think we should be doing for God is not worship. We must be directing our hearts and actions to worship God in an active way.

We don't just naturally drift toward worship. When the inward reality of our hearts are not fixed on God, the outward expression is not pleasing worship to the Lord.

Remember Jesus' words we read earlier from Matthew 15:

*"These people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me."*

🗒️ How could mowing your lawn be an act of worship?

## **B. INTENTIONAL WORSHIP**

Worship must have intent. I can't accidentally worship God. To worship God, I enter into a time that I am overflowing with praise and adoration to Him who is worthy of such praise.

---

## **4 WHAT WE VALUE IN CORPORATE WORSHIP**

We DO NOT believe that singing is our only form of worship. We do, however, place a high value on "Corporate Worship." Corporate Worship is the time when our church comes together with the intent of bringing praise to God through singing, giving, and the preaching of His word.

We believe that singing praise to God is a Biblical command to everyone.

I'm sure we have all been a part of congregations where people have said that they simply do not like to sing. So they "endure" the singing to get to the good part, the preaching. All throughout the Psalms however, we see a command to sing.

One specific example comes in Psalm 66:1-2,

*"Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!"*

The Hebrew word is a plural imperative. It is basically saying "All of you sing." This is not optional, it is a command. So our heart in Corporate Worship is to encourage everyone to sing.

☞ Do you sing in corporate worship?

☞ What holds you back from obeying this biblical command?

At Redemption Bible Church, our "Worship Ministry" includes singing and playing instruments. However, the message that our music and songs communicate is of utmost importance.

At Redemption, you will hear music that is loud and soft, fast and slow, new and old, with a full band and without. All of this matters little in comparison to the message of the song. In order to worship God in truth (John 4:24) the content of our songs, prayers, and preaching must be true. While we do not worship exclusively with quotations from Scripture in all that we sing, pray, and preach, it must all be rooted in the only authoritative source of Truth that we have, the Bible.

Because worship will continue for all of eternity, we believe we will join with the multitudes, ascribing praise to God and worship forever more. (Isaiah 6, Revelation 3-4) Our corporate gathering together is a small glimpse of what eternity will hold. It is our desire that our congregation meet God in worship.