

Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Faith (CM2)

Worship & Confession

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Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Faith (CM2)

1. Introduction to Christian Spiritual Disciplines
2. Bible Study & Meditation
3. Prayer
4. Fasting
5. Silence & Solitude
6. Worship & Confession
7. Simplicity & Stewardship
8. Conclusion: Practicing the Disciplines; Final Exam

What is Worship?

“Worship means to ascribe the proper worth to God (*worth-ship*), to acknowledge that he is worthy of praise, and to approach and address God as worthy of all glory and honor.”

Worship happens whenever we intentionally cherish God and value Him above everything else in life.

What is Worship?

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 5:12-14

What is Worship?

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Revelation 4:11

(Worshipping God both for Who He Is, and for What He Does...)

Human beings cannot help but worship...

“The crux and crisis is that man found it natural to worship; even natural to worship unnatural things... If man cannot pray, he is gagged; if he cannot kneel, he is in irons.”

G.K. Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man*

“Your desire for God and your capacity to connect with God as a human soul is the essence of who you are.”

Ruth Haley Barton

Human beings cannot help but worship...

“Whatever your heart clings to and relies upon, that is properly your God.”

Martin Luther

“So how do you know where and what you worship? It’s easy. You simply follow the trail of your time, your affection, your energy, your money and your loyalty. At the end of that trail you’ll find a throne; and whatever, or whomever, is on that throne is what’s of highest value to you. On that throne is what you worship.”

Louis Giglio

“Whatever you think about most is your god.”

Eric Hoffer

True Worship

- The Greek word most often translated “worship” (*proskuneo*) means “to fall down before” or “to bow down before.”
- True worship means to fall into the arms of God and say, *“Here I am. Do with me what you will.”*
- True worship of God happens when we put God first in our lives; when what God says matters more than what others say; when loving God matters more than being loved.

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“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24

Practicing the Presence of God

“We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of god. The world is crowded with Him. He walks everywhere incognito.”

C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*

“I make it my business to rest in His (Christ’s) holy presence which I keep myself in by a habitual, silent, and secret conversation with God. This often causes me joys and raptures inwardly, and sometimes also outwardly, so great that I am forced to use means to moderate them, and prevent their appearance to others.”

Brother Lawrence, 17th Century French Monk
The Practice of the Presence of God