

# **Worship (CL4)**

## **Liturgy & Biblical Worship**

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# Worship (CM5)

Oct. 1 – Intro to Christian Worship

Oct. 8 – Biblical & Theological Understanding

Oct. 15 – ***Mid-Term Break***

Oct. 22 – Inviting God to Church

Oct. 29 – Worship Form & Community


Nov. 5 – Liturgy & Biblical Worship

Nov. 12 – Worship and the Sacraments

Nov. 19 – Conclusion; Final Exam

# What, Then, is Worship?

**As Christians, we believe worship is:**

1. a set of culturally embedded and corporate practices,
  2. through which God forms us into the likeness of Christ,
  3. in and through the story of Jesus Christ,
  4. by the power of the Holy Spirit, in order that
  5. we might live our lives to the glory of God.
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# Significance of Varying Styles of Worship

There are many reasons for differences in worship styles (or “styles of spirituality”), but one of the most important is the impact of particular cultural and historical situations.

- **Puritan New England** – the clearest incarnation of Reformation worship in the New World, focused on hearing God’s Word.
- **Free Church Style** – introduced by Anabaptists, a radical change in understanding of church worship, focused on personal faith.
- **Revivalism** – particularly American church style in which all liturgical elements tended to focus on prompting conversions.
- **Christian Nurture Movement** – a reaction against revivalism, which advocated bringing young people up in the faith rather than encouraging a crisis of conversion later on in life.
- **Pentecostalism** – most influential worship style in 20<sup>th</sup> century, combining freedom of lay-led worship, call to decision, and expressions of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

# Varying Styles of Worship

## New England Puritan Worship

- Blessing, Hymn, Scripture, Sermon, Prayer; Communion (occasionally), Hymn, Blessing.

## Mainline (“Free Church”) Protestant Worship

- Call to Worship/Confession, Hymn, Creed/Scripture, Sermon, Prayer, Communion, Hymn, Blessing/Sending

## Revivalist Style Worship

- Prayer, Praise (Congregational singing), Testimony, Sermon, Invitation (“Harvest of Souls”)

## 20<sup>th</sup> Century Seeker Services

- Welcome and Prayer, Praise time (“worship” with chorus singing), Presentation (drama, media clip), Sermon, Invitation (to Christ, or to “get involved” in life of the church)

## Pentecostalism (3<sup>rd</sup> Wave)

- **Invitation** (call to worship); **Engagement** (approach to God); **Exaltation** (God’s transcendence); **Adoration** (God’s immanence); **Intimacy** (rest in God’s presence)

# The Contemporary Situation

Broadly speaking, by the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, contemporary worship had developed into three streams or styles:

- 1. Those who make the strongest attempt to connect with the culture around them, and so are most distant from more historic worship patterns. (More music-oriented)**
- 2. Those who stand out as most distinct from and influence from contemporary culture, and so are closest to historic worship patterns. (More Eucharist or table-oriented.)**
- 3. Those in the center, who both have an interest in preserving ancient patterns of worship, but also seek to be obedient in helping transform culture. (More Word-oriented.)**

## **Again... What is Worship?**

“I wonder if there was ever a time when true spiritual worship was at a lower ebb. To great sections of the church the art of worship has been lost entirely, and in its place has come that strange and foreign thing called the ‘program.’ This word has been borrowed from the stage and applied with sad wisdom to the type of public service which now passes for worship among us.” **James Montgomery Boyce**

# **Biblical Principles of Worship**

## **1. God desires worship - in fact, he commands it.**

*The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him.* John 4:23

*Begone, Satan! for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve'* Matthew 4:10

*Worship God.* Revelation 19:10

## **2. God alone is to be worshiped.**

*You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make yourself a graven 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; you shall not bow down to them or serve them.* Exodus 20:3-5



# Biblical Principles of Worship

## **3. *The worship of God is a mark of saving faith.***

*For we are the true circumcision [that is, the true people of God], who worship God in spirit, and glory in Christ Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh. Philippians 3:3*

## **4. *Worship is a corporate activity.***

*At that time men began to call upon the name of the LORD. Genesis 4:26*

*And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all therein, saying, 'To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' and the elders fell down and worshiped. Revelation 5:13-14*

# Biblical Principles of Worship

## 5. *God is not pleased with all worship.*

*Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me.'*      *Mark 7:6-7*

*I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and cereal offerings, I will not accept them, and the peace offerings of your fatted beasts I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*      *Amos 5:21-24*

*Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*      *Psalms 51:16-17*

# Worshipping in Spirit & in Truth

*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. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”* John 4:23-24

"The true, the genuine worship is when man, through his spirit, attains to friendship and intimacy with God. True and genuine worship is not to come to a certain place; it is not to go through a certain ritual or liturgy; it is not even to bring certain gifts. True worship is when the spirit, the immortal and invisible part of man, speaks to and meets with God, who is immortal and invisible."

William Barclay

# Liturgy in Worship

- With the exception of liturgical elements that suggest wrong doctrine, no liturgy in itself is either inherently better or worse than another.
- The issue is not emotional or non-emotional hymns, extemporaneous or read prayers, congregational responses or silence; not differences in Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Congregational or Quaker liturgies - but how effectively the service turns the worshipers' attention to God.

*"As long as you notice, and have to count, the steps, you are not yet dancing but only learning to dance. A good shoe is a shoe you don't notice. Good reading becomes possible when you need not consciously think about eyes, or light, or print, or spelling. The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God."*

*C.S. Lewis*

# Worshipping in Spirit & in Truth

In defining worship as "in truth," Christ meant at least three things:

- 1. We must approach God truthfully, that is, honestly or wholeheartedly.**

*This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me ... Mark 7:6-7*

- 2. We must worship based on the principles and teaching of the Bible.**

*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17*

- 3. To approach God in truth means that we must have Jesus as our focus.**

*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. John 14:6*











# What is Worship?

- ▶ “Christian worship is response to the Divine call, to the ‘mighty deeds’ of God, culminating in the redemptive act of Christ.”
- ▶ “Christian worship is primarily and essentially an act of praise and adoration, which also implies a thankful acknowledgement of God’s embracing love and redemptive loving-kindness.”
- ▶ Worship is “for the glory of God and the sanctification and edification of the faithful.” Pope Pius X
- ▶ “Worship is not a human invention; rather it is a divine offering. God offers himself in a personal relationship, and we respond. God’s offer of love elicits our response in worship.” Franklin M. Segler
- ▶ “Worship is the offering of our total selves to God – our intellects, our feelings, our attitudes and our possessions.”

**Worship** – corporate worship, both Biblically and through the Church’s history, is about ***remembrance*** and ***anticipation***.

**Content** – there has been a ***crisis of content*** in the modern worship movement, because it is *disembodied*; it is *de-historicized*; and it is *individualized*.

**Structure** – “The story of God is communicated in the narrative of Word and Table,” which is deeply rooted in God’s narrative to us. The Word read and preached remembers God’s story through the Christ event; while Eucharistic prayers, songs, and symbols usher us into anticipation of the future kingdom of God. (Robert Webber)

**Style** – music is where corporate worship is contextualized, and may be viewed as a cultural language. Congregational worship must be translated into those languages.

**What – in the most practical terms possible  
– is *worship*?**

**What does it mean to “glorify” God?**

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. <sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.*

*Psalm 96:8-9*

**What does it mean to “praise” God?**

*I bowed down and worshiped the Lord . I praised the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road...*

*Genesis 24:48*

**What does it mean to “exalt” God?**

*Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.*

*Psalm 99:5*

# **WHY should we worship?**

*Shout for joy to the LORD , all the earth. <sup>2</sup> Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. <sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:1-3*

# **Does it matter WHERE we worship?**

*And the king bowed in worship on his bed <sup>48</sup> and said, 'Praise be to the LORD , the God of Israel....' 1 Kings 1:47-48*

# **Are there specific actions that should be part of worship?**

*There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.*

*Luke 2:36-38*

# What constitutes *false* worship?

*You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: <sup>8</sup> “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>9</sup> They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”* Matthew 15:7-9

# Does worship require us to *bow down*, or at least *kneel*?

*Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD.* 2 Chronicles 20:18

# Does true worship require sacrifice?

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

Romans 12:1-2

# What does it mean to “worship in Spirit and in truth?”

*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. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”*

*John 4:23-24*

## **The Israelites continually worshiped false gods and idols... do we do the same?**

*“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God...*

*Exodus 20:4-5*

# The Israelites were ordered to kill all those who worshiped false gods? What should we do with idolaters?

*If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, “Let us go and worship other gods” (gods that neither you nor your ancestors have known, <sup>7</sup> gods of the peoples around you, whether near or far, from one end of the land to the other), <sup>8</sup> do not yield to them or listen to them. Show them no pity. Do not spare them or shield them. <sup>9</sup> You must certainly put them to death. Your hand must be the first in putting them to death, and then the hands of all the people. <sup>10</sup> Stone them to death, because they tried to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>11</sup> Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and no one among you will do such an evil thing again. Deuteronomy 13:6-11*



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# What Proper Worship Must Be

**1. Christ-centered.** In contrast with being audience-driven. Worship (including congregational music) must not be shaped around the congregation but around Christ. This means the content of the songs point to Christ; it means the sermon ends not with a call to try harder or do better, but to behold Christ as our Great Redeemer.

**2. Gospel-shaped.** Worship must orient people around the Scripture and around the Sacrament – Word and Table. Instead, many church services are structured like a variety-show.

**3. Spirit-filled.** Not in the Pentecostal tradition so much as the miracle of Pentecost itself: when the Spirit empowered the apostles to proclaim the Gospel in the language of various peoples so that they understood it and were convicted by it.



