

## What do you Worship?

Welcome to CHC! Thank you for being here with us today. Your presence matters!

My name is Bobby and I get the honor to serve as one of the Pastors here. We would love to connect with you after the service.

Today is a great day to have a great day!

Before I jump into the sermon I want to remind you of two things. The Loop and Small Groups.

We just finished up our 21 DOP and fasting. Did that help anybody? I pray it brought back a fire and love for God in your life.

And that's kind of the lane we are going to live in for the next two weeks.

Today I want to talk to you about what you worship.

Talking about worship may not seem like a very interesting thing to some of you because for some of you guys your mind immediately goes to singing or music.

You are right in thinking that, but worship also means so much more. I want to stretch your thinking a little bit as we look at worship.

Let me give you some formal definitions of worship first and then we will look at worship in the Bible, and then you decide where you are in your worship.

The Greek word for worship is **Proskuneo**. It means, literally, "**to turn and kiss**" or "**to bow down.**"

It implies turning away from us and turning toward our Lord in an intimate and affectionate way. Expression of love. "**To regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion.**"

Rick Warren - "**Anything you do that brings pleasure to God is an act of worship.**"

William Temple says, "**Worship is the submission of all our nature to God.**"

As you think about all these definitions, Who/What are you turning towards? Who/What are you devoted to? Who/What are you expressing your love to?

The answer to this question is vital to each one of our lives because it's going to tell us your story. Why?

**We become like what we worship.**

Worship possessions...become a materialistic person.  
Worship money... become a greedy person.  
Worship sex... become a lustful person.  
Worship power... become a corrupt person.  
Worship God... becoming a Christ like person

This is a foundational question that you have to answer. If you don't know the real answer look at your life.

**Our actions reveal what we really worship.** (The things that are done with the most consistency in my life are the areas my worship resides.)

God's word says a lot about our worship. I want to look at this through the lenses of scripture. (OT and NT)

Let's stand together in honor of the reading of God's Word.

**Exodus 20.1-4 I Then God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery. <sup>3</sup> Do not have other gods besides me. <sup>4</sup> Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. <sup>5</sup> Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, bringing the consequences of the fathers' iniquity on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commands. <sup>7</sup> Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses his name. <sup>8</sup> Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy: <sup>9</sup> You are to labor six days and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. You must not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the resident alien who is within your city gates. <sup>11</sup> For the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.**

(Context – Jesus speaking to a Samaritan woman at a drinking well.)

**John 4.19-24 I <sup>19</sup> “Sir,” the woman replied, “I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem. <sup>21</sup> Jesus told her, “Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We**

**worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the father wants such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.”**

Pray

In the OT God gave His people a list of 10 foundational truths to build their life on. We know them as the 10 commandments.

The first four commandments involve exclusive loyalty to the Lord, avoiding idol worship, not taking the name of the Lord in vain, and keeping the Sabbath day holy to God.

Gods not doing this because He's desperate for people's approval...He knows we aren't smart enough in this vast array of many gods and many idols who to give our allegiance to.

This is about God defending His glory. He knows that the best thing for you is Him. The best thing for your life to be healthy is for you to worship Christ alone.

So here is God telling his people to build their life with him as the foundation. True, healthy worship of God happens when my life is built upon this commandment.

***Illustration: (Solid foundation Vs. Side Hustle) (Main house Vs. Carriage House)***

Your worship is what matters to God...Don't have any other Gods before me

We think God only cares about our behaviors...smoking, cussing, and what kind of music I listen to.

He cares more about what you are worshipping. **When your worship is right, your life is right.**

It's never been about just changing behaviors...You can change your behavior and never change your worship.

This is where many of us fail and fall. We try to change the outside without changing the inside. And what always happens? We fall right back into the cycle. Good for a few weeks and then I start slipping back. We are changing the wrong thing.

We have to start at the root. At the foundation. Identify who/what you're worshipping.

## **God is after your affection.**

He gave these commandments to build our life on...but He also gives some practical ways to live this out.

## **What does living a life built on worship look like?**

Let's jump to our NT story. Jesus is having this conversation about worship with this woman. Lots of context here.

The story of the Samaritan woman reinforces John's main theme that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God. While her conversion is clearly implied, the apostles focus centers on Jesus's declaration foretold in the Scriptures.

Jesus demonstrates His love and understanding of people. His love for mankind involved no boundaries, for He lovingly and compassionately reached out to a woman who was a social outcast.

She has this notion that Jesus is a prophet. He had supernatural instincts.

**Vs. 20** | Both Jews and Samaritans recognized that God had told their forefathers to identify a special place for them to go and worship Him.

**Vs. 21** | Jesus was letting her know that there was no reason to debate which location was correct, because both places would be obsolete soon. Neither would have any role to play in the lives of those who genuinely worship God.

**Vs. 22** | The Samaritans did not know God. They did not have the full revelation of Him, and thus could not worship in truth. The Jews did have the full revelation of God in the Old Testament; thus they knew the god they worshipped.

**John 4.23-24** | <sup>23</sup> **But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the father wants such people to worship him.** <sup>24</sup> **God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth."**

Before Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection the thing that separated true worshippers and false worshippers was based on location.

Now, Jesus is telling her that true worshippers are all who worship him everywhere.

True worshipers are those who worship in spirit and in truth.

Let's look at what that means...

**Worship in Spirit | With my soul, heart, mind, thoughts, and beliefs...My internal being.**

Jesus is not speaking of a desirable element in worship. But that which is absolutely necessary.

Jesus's point here is that a person must worship not simply by external conformity to religious rituals and places. But inwardly, with the proper heart attitude.

**Worship in Truth | With my body, actions, speech, and words...My external being.**

The reference here of the word truth is referring the Gods Word. That your worship lines up with truth and is centered on the word of God.

So again, the foundation of who you are must be built about worship and your actions then flow from that place.

God wants me to worship Him with everything on the inside of me as well as everything on the outside of me. In spirit and in truth.

**Does my worship line up with Gods Word?**

Our actions such as.... singing, giving, praying, serving, and studying His word are designed by God to bring us closer to Him.

When we worship, we are inviting the presence of God into our hearts and lives.

These acts of worship are to give Him glory but also to cause us to think more like He thinks, thus becoming more like Him.

Our worship not only honors and magnifies God, but it is also for our own edification and strength.

**Worship is an opportunity to show how much you value the presence of God.**

I've been asked the question...Why do people lift their hands in worship?

Maybe they have something they need to give to God. Maybe they've been fighting all week and they're throwing up their hands to say, God, I need you. Maybe they're carrying something that is too heavy to carry alone. They are fighting the enemy. Fighting depression.

**You're showing what you value when you worship.**

Worship helps us develop a God-like and Christ-like character.

When we worship God, we tend to value what God values and gradually take on the characteristics and qualities of God.

Conclusion:

*Illustration: Story of giving Shira a frame picture of her name in an acronym. You know how you give someone a gift and you can just see it on their face. She's such a great person, she was like thanks babe. Then the gloves came off. This is what you give me? This is how you show me love? Giving a small effort at the last minute. No thought. Didn't cost you anything*

I learned a valuable lessons that day...Shira hates poems. **If you value me, you'll show me.**

How do I show God the value I place on Him in my life? By worshipping in spirit and in truth.

When the songs play, I worship through singing.  
When it's time to serve, I worship through serving.  
When it's time to give, I worship through giving.  
When it's time to pray, I worship through praying.

When times get rough...I'm going to worship.  
When times are great...I'm going to worship.

**“Commit to go, to give, to forgive, to include, to slow down, to rest, to see, to hope, to believe, to serve, to speak, to listen, to wait, to love.”**

Who/What are you worshipping?

If your answer is anything other than God, let me encourage you to make some changes. Make the shift to give your heart and life to Jesus.

Shift your worship to Him and watch how your life changes. I want to invite you to give your heart to Jesus.