

Concerning Worship

- I. worship: v. To honour or revere as a supernatural being or power, or as a holy thing; to regard or approach with veneration (a feeling of deep respect and reverence directed towards some person or thing); to adore with appropriate acts, rites, or ceremonies.
- II. God demands that HE ALONE be worshipped and visits judgment upon those who fail to do so. **EXO 20:3-6.**
- A. Bowing is an expression of worship. **GEN 24:26-27; EXO 4:31; 2CH 7:3; 20:18; PSA 95:6; MAT 2:11; 1CO 14:23-25; REV 7:11.**
- B. bow: To bend the body, knee, or head, in token of reverence, respect, or submission.
- III. The first recorded act of worship was that of Cain and Abel. **GEN 4:3-5.**
- A. This act of worship contained three elements.
1. There was a time of worship: “in process of time it came to pass.”
 2. There was a place of worship: “unto the LORD.”
 3. There was a method of worship: “brought...an offering.”
- B. Not all acts of worship are acceptable to God.
- C. Cain's worship was evil and Abel's was righteous. **1JO 3:12.**
- D. The very first sin we read of after the fall is a sin in worship.
- E. Abel's worship was “by faith” (**HEB 11:4**).
1. Worship is an expression of one's faith.
 2. Faith presupposes a divine revelation, which Abel obeyed.
 - a. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. **ROM 10:17.**
 - b. Abel was a prophet who would have received divine revelation.
LUK 11:50-51; AMO 3:7.
 - c. Cain was charged with sin which means a law was transgressed (**1JO 3:4**).
GEN 4:7; ROM 4:15.
 3. Abel's worship arose from a conviction of God's existence, God's will, and his accountability to God. **HEB 11:6.**
- F. God's revelation dictates the time, place, and method of worship.
- IV. Abraham's sacrifice upon Mt. Moriah was an act of worship. **GEN 22:1-5.**
- A. This worship contained the three elements.
1. There was a time: “Take NOW thy son.”
 2. There was a place: “get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there...upon one of the mountains that I will tell thee of.”
 3. There was a method: “take...thine only son Isaac...and offer him there for a burnt offering.”
- B. By this Abraham proved that he feared God. **GEN 22:12.**
- C. The fear and the worship of God go together. **2KI 17:35-36; PSA 89:7; REV 14:7.**
- V. **DEU 16:16-17** sets forth these three elements in the worship ordained under Moses' law.
- A. There was a time: “Three times in a year...the feast of unleavened bread...the feast of weeks...the feast of tabernacles.”
- B. There was a place: “shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose.” **DEU 12:8-14; 1KI 8:29.**
- C. There was a method: “they shall not appear before the LORD empty: Every man shall

- give as he is able.”
- D. The book of Leviticus gives a detailed account of the times, place, and methods of worship under Moses' law.
- VI. Elkanah's worship also demonstrates the three elements. **1SAM 1:3.**
- A. There was a time: “this man went up...yearly.”
- B. There was a place: “unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh.”
- C. There was a method: “to sacrifice unto the LORD.”
- VII. The worship in the restored temple reflects the three elements. **EZE 46:1-9.**
- A. There was a time: “on the sabbath...in the day of the new moon.”
- B. There was a place: “at the threshold of the gate.”
- C. There was a method: “the priests shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings.”
- D. Note **v. 9.** The worshippers were not to go back by the way which they had come.
1. An encounter with God in worship should elicit progression in believers.
PSA 84:7; PHIL 3:13-14.
 2. If the first-comers should return the way they had come, they would likely impede the approach of others through disorder and confusion.
 3. God's design was for a one-way stream of worshippers striving in the same direction without confusion, decently and in order.
c/w **PHIL 1:27; 1CO 14:33, 40.**
 4. Worship that elicits retrogression indicates a faulty form of worship or a fault in the worshipper.
- VIII. All of the above examples show that worship entails bringing an offering before the Lord. **PSA 96:7-9.**
- A. In worship we give to God what He has first given to us thus acknowledging our dependence upon Him. **ROM 11:35-36; 1CH 29:14-16.**
- B. Since worship entails an offering to God, then the greatest act of worship was the sacrifice of Christ. **EPH 5:2.**
1. There was a time: see **JOH 7:6, 30; 12:27; MAT 26:18.**
 2. There was a place: see **LUK 9:51; HEB 13:11-12.**
 3. There was a method: see **ACT 3:18; 1CO 15:3; PHIL 2:8.**
- IX. The three elements characterize the worship of the New Testament church.
- A. With the exception of **ACT 19:37**, the Greek word translated “church” is “ekklesia.” It is translated “assembly” in **ACT 19:32, 39, 41.**
- B. The church, true to its name, *assembles* to worship God.
ACT 11:26; 1CO 11:17-18, 33-34; 14:26; HEB 10:25.
- C. The church is the temple or house of God, the place where God dwells.
EPH 2:19-22; 1TI 3:15.
1. To assemble with the church is to come before the Lord.
 2. Therefore, the place of worship is the assembly of the church.
- D. In assembling, the church comes together into one place. **1CO 11:20; 14:23.**
1. Coming together into one place necessitates both the elements of a time and a place.
 2. The place of the assembly may be anywhere, but it must be somewhere.
JOH 4:20-24.

3. The New Testament gives an example of disciples coming together on the first day of the week (**ACT 20:7**), but this time is not inflexibly required.
 4. However, a time of worship is required. Otherwise, how could the whole church come together in one place?
- E. The method of worship entails teaching (**ACT 11:26; 20:28; 1CO 14:19**); prayer and thanksgiving (**1CO 14:15-16; 1TI 2:1; HEB 13:15**); singing (**1CO 14:15; EPH 5:19; HEB 2:12**); observing the Lord's Supper (**1CO 11:33**); doing good and giving (**HEB 13:16; PHI 4:18**).
1. Our thanksgiving and obedience are sacrifices that we offer AS the house of God builded TOGETHER. **1PE 2:5; EPH 2:22**.
 2. We must present our bodies in church to carry out church service in order to worship God as we ought. **ROM 12:1-2**.
- X. God severely judges corrupt worship.
- A. Consider Israel's worship of the golden calf. **EXO 32:4-7**.
1. The three elements show up even here.
 - a. There was a time: "Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD."
 - b. There was a place: "he built an altar before it."
 - c. There was a method: "they...offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings."
 2. God charged the people with corrupting THEMSELVES. Corrupt worship corrupts people!
 3. God's wrath would have waxed hot against Israel for this. **EXO 32:10**.
- B. Aaron's two sons were slain for offering "strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not" (**LEV 10:1-3**).
- C. Consider the corrupt worship instituted by Jeroboam. **1KI 12:26-33**.
1. Jeroboam altered the worship in order to secure his kingdom.
 2. He did not trust God's promise to build him a sure house if he obeyed the Lord. **1KI 11:38**.
 3. He changed the *time* of worship: "Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah..." (**v. 32**). **LEV 23:34**.
 4. He changed the *place* of worship: "And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan" (**v. 29**).
 5. He changed the *method* of worship: "...the king...made two calves of gold...he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi" (**vs. 28-31**).
 6. This worship was a device of Jeroboam's heart (**v. 33**) and in defiance of God's express will for His worship.
 7. This worship was pronounced SIN. **v. 30**.
- D. God must be worshipped on HIS terms. **MAT 15:9**.
- E. Corruption in worship results in all manner of other corruption. **ROM 1:21-32**.
1. Mind the censure here on worshipping the creature. **v. 25**.
 2. This includes the worshipping of angels. **COL 2:18; REV 22:8-9**.
- F. The mark of the beast is conspicuously associated with false worship and judgment. **REV 14:9-11; 16:1-2; 19:20; 20:4**.
- XI. We ought also to worship God privately (**JDG 7:15; JOB 1:20; HEB 11:21**); and we ought to

keep our hearts and homes clear of idolatry.

DEU 7:25-26; JOS 24:14-15; JOB 11:14; PSA 101:2-3; EZE 14:1-5.

XII. The true worshippers worship the Father in spirit and in truth. **JOH 4:20-24.**

A. We must have the Holy Spirit to worship God.

EPH 2:18; 1CO 14:15; PHIL 3:3 c/w ROM 2:28-29.

1. An unregenerate man who is devoid of the Spirit CANNOT worship God.

ROM 8:8-9.

2. The Spirit-filled life expresses itself in worship. **EPH 5:18-20.**

3. To withhold worship is to quench the Spirit. **1TH 5:16-19.**

B. We must have the truth and obey the truth to worship God.

C. God screens all worshippers seeking only those who are true worshippers. **2CH 16:9.**

D. God discerns hypocritical worship and rejects it. **MAT 15:7-9.**

1. hypocrite: One who falsely professes to be virtuously or religiously inclined; one who pretends to have feelings or beliefs of a higher order than his real ones.

2. We look upon outward appearances. **1SAM 16:7.**

3. God knows what is IN man. **1KI 8:39; JOH 2:23-25; HEB 4:12-13.**

4. Hypocrites will be exposed in due time. **LUK 12:1-2; 1CO 4:5.**

E. In order to worship God we must be righteous and we must act righteously.

PRO 15:8; 21:27.

1. Otherwise we are not worshipping in spirit and in truth.

2. We are made righteous in Christ and are thus accepted in Him.

1CO 1:30; ROM 5:19; EPH 1:4-6; HEB 9:14; 10:22.

3. As righteous persons, we must act righteously to worship God acceptably.

EPH 5:1-2, 8-10; 2TI 2:19-21; ISA 1:10-20.

4. Those who will not behave righteously must be put from the church in order for it to worship acceptably. **1CO 5:1-8.**

5. Worship should be a true expression of our spiritual and moral condition.