

Theology Of Worship

What is Worship?

Worship is the proper response of human beings to the glory of God. We encounter the glory of God through his self-revelation in scripture. Worship involves the use of all of our faculties: mind, emotion, will, and body. When we worship, we adore God, both in attitude and action. It is both an act of obedience to the commandments of God and a deep, passionate outpouring of our love and respect for Him. Worship is an active response to God whereby we ascribe to Him supreme worth, and during which we humble ourselves, acknowledging our complete dependence upon Him and our profound desire for Him. It is a celebration of God's beauty and transcendence.

Worship can take place in many different forms. Though those forms may have different expression from culture to culture, there are biblical guidelines to which they must adhere.

1. Worship must stem from an accurate understanding of a holy God. (Is. 6:1-3, Rev. 4:4-8,)
2. Worship, must be directed towards the one true God in spirit and in truth, and to him alone. (Deut. 6:13-14, Ex. 20:3, John 4:23)
3. Worship must be exhibited in all aspects of life, not just through "worship singing" on Sunday mornings. (Rom. 12:1-2)

Why Should We Worship?

Firstly, worship is not something that we offer to God of our own volition, or convenience. God commands his people to worship him! In the New Testament, when the Pharisees asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was, Jesus summed the entire Old Testament law into "...love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matt. 22:37)

Secondly, as we worship, we dwell on the attributes of God (creator, holy, righteous, just, loving, merciful, etc.), and those cause us to become more aware of our lowly position before God, and should inspire confession, repentance, and humility in us as we realize the greatness of God all the more. (James 4:10)

Thirdly, worship draws us near to God, and it lines up our thinking more closely with his perfect will. (James 4:8)

How Do We Worship?

The Bible makes it clear that everything we do is to be done unto the glory of God. (1 Cor. 10:31) Meeting together with other believers to worship corporately is a wonderful and unique experience, which we are commanded to do in scripture. (Heb. 10:24-25) There we can sing together, pray together, meditate together, give tithes and offerings together, hear the proclamation of the Word together, and encourage and care for each other. Worship can also take place outside the walls of the church. King David gives us a great outline for worshipping God in every area of our lives: "Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known

his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him; sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered..." (I Chr. 16:8-12)

We see that we worship God when we seek him. We seek the Lord in all the ways David mentioned, when we give thanks to God and call upon his name through prayer, when we make known his deeds by sharing what God has done in our lives, when we share His gospel with the lost, when we sing to him (yes, sing outside of a Sunday worship service!), when we glory in his holy name, that is to rejoice triumphantly in the holiness of God, when we rely on the strength of God, when we meditate on his Word, when we live in light of remembering what he has done and how he has been faithful.

What Now?

Here at Crossroads Community Church, we desire to instill in our congregation that worship is a lifestyle. A Sunday morning worship service should be a culmination of a week filled with worship experiences, not the only hour and a half out of the week that we devote to seeking God. We believe that the corporate worship service is a vital part of the believer's life, and walk with the Lord. We dive deep into the scriptures to discover how God would have us go into the world to be "salt and light" to the lost.(Matt. 5:13-14) Everything we do at Crossroads is motivated and directed by God's Word.

- We meet together every Sunday morning to worship together and encourage one another. (Heb. 10:24-25)
- We sing our praises and thanksgivings to God through hymns, praise choruses, and special songs to focus our minds on him. (Psalm 100:1-2)
- We pray together for God's leading, and to make requests known to him. (I Chr. 16:11, I Tim. 2:1-3, James 5:13-18)
- We sit under the teaching and authority of the Word of God for the knowledge of God, salvation, and godly living. (II Tim. 3:16, 4:1-5)
- We celebrate communion together. (Matt. 26:26-29)
- We give back to the Lord part of what he has graciously given to us. (Matt. 6:1-2, II Cor. 9:7)