

## Worship

Psalms 96: 1-7

Two young boys are walking down the road when a vicious dog attacked one of the boys. The other boy picked up a 2 by 4 and kills the dog and saves his friend. A reporter got wind of the attack and how brave the boy was to save his friend and asked the boy for an interview. The boy said yes and the next day the story read, "Colts fan saves friend from a vicious dog." The boys saw it and called the reporter and said, "I'm not a Colts fan." The reporter said I will change it in tomorrow's paper. The next day the headline read, "Pacers fan saves friends life from a vicious dog attack." The boy again calls up the reporter and says, "I'm not a Pacers fan either." The reporter then said, "Are you a sports fan?" The boy said, "Yes I am, I'm a Tennessee Titans fan." The next day the story line read, "Redneck Idiot kills faithful family pet." That was his view point.

Everyone's take on worship is different. Ask a Pentecostal, an Anglican, Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, young and old, whatever your view point is, I think we all need to rediscover the dynamics in our services again.

Did you know you can't find deadness in worship anywhere? The truth is, we need a transforming experience from the Lord. The kind of visitation that will help heal our broken homes and heal our churches and strip away our religious veneer and get us back to his heart.

A.W. Tozer said, "Worship is the missing jewel of the church." We need a Biblical understanding of Worship. Someone once said, "We have become a generation of people who worship our work, work at our play, and play at our worship."

I'm afraid that many come to church because it's Sunday, rather than come on Sunday to worship.

So, lets look at what worship is not: Worship is not an event.

- We call the AM service "worship service" but calling that doesn't make it so. You can attend a worship service without worshipping. Jesus said of the Jews of his day in Matthew 15:8, "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

- Worship is not music. A church may have a worship leader and a worship team, and we have a fine worship leader and team, we may sing songs, but having the music doesn't guarantee our worship. Music is a vehicle to take us to the place of worship.
- Worship is not a feeling: Some people think that unless they get tears in their eyes and shiver up their spine they haven't had a good worship experience. Worship is emotional but being emotional doesn't guarantee genuine worship.
- So what is worship? Worship is our response to God. When we worship God, we are responding to him. Worship is heartfelt. John 4:23 "But the hour is coming, and now is, where the true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship him." Genuine worship is not emotion, but it is emotional. God's grace always touches our emotions.
- Lets look at why we worship. Praise is a response to what God does and who God is. See, I thank him for his mercy when he answers my prayers. I praise him in response to his works, but I worship him because of who he is.
- I am not worshipping Him because of what He will do for me, but because of what He is to me.
- We worship because of who we are. He is the master; we are the servants. He is the vine, we are the branches. He is the owner, we are his possessions. There isn't a hair on your head that doesn't go unnoticed by him. Therefore our response to Him should be to worship!!
- How are we to worship? Although we can worship any time and any place, there is a special dynamic of God's presence in corporate worship. That's why Hebrews 10:25 commands us to "not forsake the assembling of

ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching.”

- We are to worship verbally. Hebrews 13:15 “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that confess his name.”
- We are to worship physically. Vs 6. Of Psalms 95 says we are to “bow down” and to “kneel” before the Lord. Psalms 47:1 says, “Oh, clap your hands, all you people! Shout to God with a voice of triumph!” Psalms 63:4 says, “I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.” Psalms 134:2 “Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord.”
- Worship is much more than a few songs on Sunday, it’s a life style!!!!
- And lastly we are to worship obediently. Some people put on a show of worship on Sunday but then don’t obey him all week long. Someone once said, “The best public worship is birthed in private worship.”