

Biblical Answers to Difficult Questions: What is Biblical Worship? Part 1 &2

June 26, 2022

Job 1: 21-23

This sermon contrasts Biblical Worship with Cultural Worship. Worship is the response to God by redeemed people for His existence, character, and mercy through Christ.

4 Truths of Biblical Worship from this passage:

1) **Heart of Worship is Total Submission:** V22, "In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong." Job submitted to God's right to do whatever He wants, v21.

Was Job's response only because of grief? No, Job's response matches the Biblical definition of worship in Scripture. 4 Examples in OT/NT of the meaning and descriptions of worship:

1) "**Hishtacuo**," found 170x in OT, describing worship of God and false idols, meaning to fall down to the ground in submission to the superior, symbolized the attitude, example: Ex. 4:31.

2) A word used in conjunction with other worship words, "**kabod**," found in Psalms, Isaiah, & Ezekiel, & Proverbs the word meaning to be heavy and weighty. Someone who has worth and impressiveness and translated "glory or to glorify." Used in Ps. 22:23, Ps. 66:2 "glorify."

3) From NT the Hebrew equivalent of word 1, "**proskuneo**," meaning to physically bow down, lay down, or fall down, Jn. 4:24. Matt.2:2.

4) A word "**pipto**" used to mean "fall down or prostrate" (lie on face) before the Lord, the 24 elders of Rev. 4:10 "fall down," "pipto." Many times, used together with "kabod."

All words convey humble, heartfelt submission - bowing before the superior.

It is the Christian life, Romans 12:1, a living sacrifice and spiritual worship.

2) **The Meekness of Worship is Inwardly Genuine:** V21, Job acknowledges that he is nothing and naked he came and naked he shall return. God is the highest of high and has the right to do what He wants. Worship that is God exalting and man abasing.

7 Errors in Christian Corporate Worship:

1) Narrowing the definition of worship: not just a time for me and emotional gratification: music being the easiest path. Everything we do is worship, if done unto God, Rom. 12:1.

2) Carelessness concerning theologically grounded lyrics-we sing Scriptural truths and hymns that describe the theology we find in Scripture.

3) Equating worship with emotion: truth does evoke emotion, but emotion is not worship and worship is not emotion.

4) Informality in worship is more genuine: talking about God as our buddy as an example.

5) Decentralizing of preaching as pinnacle of worship: through the preached Word we become more like God. We are transformed into Christlikeness, Jn. 17:17.

6) Confusion of private and corporate worship: V21-22, Job is in private worship. Public worship is described in Eph. 5:19-21 as an example. Speaking to one another, submission to one another in the fear of God.

7) Cheapening of Worship: It was free to me, but it cost the Son of God His life. Blood was shed for me to come worship before a Holy God whose wrath has been satisfied by the blood of Jesus and His death. The means of my worship was the cross of Christ.

The meekness of worship is inwardly genuine because one of the functions of worshipping God (emphasis is corporate worship) is an acknowledgement of my weakness and powerlessness and need for mercy and grace from God.

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- 3) **The Focus of worship is Sovereign God:** V21, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away." God has the inherent right as Creator of all things.

What got us here to an error filled worship of emotionalism?

Todd Brenneman's book Homespun Gospel gives a good analysis of the balanced thinking during the 2nd Great Awakening of the 1750s of John Edwards, that godliness follows a changed life and that emotionalism doesn't confirm a changed life.

The error of modern evangelicalism that sees emotion not as the response to worship but as the means of worship. The thought that worship happens when we break down our emotions through exhaustive singing and music so that people can then hear truth. Following with a sentimental view of God that He needs us and longs for us to be with Him to complete Him.

But was there room for teaching on sin, the wrath of God and hell?

The time of the 2nd Great Awakening coincided with the Wesleyan 2nd Blessing experience of the 1750s. Emotionalism of the late 19th century and early 1900s and Pentecostalism began to spread by Charles Parham. Another was William Seymour and the Azusa Street Revival that continued charismaticism with speaking in "tongues." Foursquare and Assemblies of God followed 6 decades later by the health, wealth, and prosperity movement. By the 1980s, Baptists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and others were influenced by the charismatic movement and praying for the sick and raising of hands was a part of worship. The seeker-sensitive movement exploded to help unbelievers experience God and feel good about coming to church to "worship." **What got left behind?** The Bible and truth.

- 4) **The Goal of Worship is the Right Response:** V21, Job's response, "Blessed be the name of the Lord." He doesn't make a single request, He responded to God's existence, character, and mercy. What do these responses look like? Prayer, confession of sin, preached Word of God, singing, giving, baptism, the Lord's Table, fellowship, and lives lived in holiness and obedience to God's Word.

What about the response of hand raising? Worshipping God might result in physical response. We bow our heads, fold our hands, stand to sing, clap, move our bodies to worship songs. It is not in opposition to Scripture. **Ask Question: Why do we do it?**

There are no commands to lift hands. There are many examples in Scripture: 1 Tim. 2:8 (prayer and that your hands are clean), Ps. 134:1-3 (addressing a night at the temple), Gen. 14:22 (oath), Deut. 32:40 (oath), 1 Kings 8:22, 38, 54 (in submission), Ezra 9:5 (conviction of sin), Neh.8:6 (weeping over sin), Ps. 28:2 (psalm of lament), Ps. 63:4 (David being hunted), Ps. 88:9 (psalm of sadness), Lam. 2:19, 3:41-42 (in prayer of desperation). **Paul's call to lift holy hands is a call to repentance. The lifting of hands is always private.**

A Quick Theology of Worship in 7 Parts: 1) Worship is the response to revelation. 2) Worship is a response to manifest glory of God. 3) Worship is joined forever with sacrifice. 4) Worship demands personal purity. 5) Worship involves theological exclamation. 6) Worship is defined as a heart attitude of humility. 7) Worship is the immediate response to salvation and deliverance.

Further Discussion and Application

Looking at the quick theology of worship, how can your life grow in worship unto the Lord? What things can we set aside so that we would obey the Lord to a greater extent and give unto Him the worship He deserves? How will learning more about God through His Scriptures bring greater understanding and truth? How will truth lead to more worship of the Lord?