

Ps. 29:1-2, "ascribe" unto the Yahweh means to give Him something. Rom. 12:1 calls it spiritual worship or service. **Worship is the redeemed people of God congregating together to respond to God underpinned by the fear of God.** In reverence, although wrath is satisfied in Jesus, fear remains as to God's holiness, splendor, glory, & greatness. We know the fear of God, 2 Cor. 5:11.

5 Necessary Components of Worship from Isaiah 6:1-8:

1. **The Glory of God must be emphasized:** Ask was God worshipped or something else?
2. **Sovereignty of God:** King Uzziah has died (after 52 years) and God is over all.
3. **The Holiness of God is emphasized:** Is. 6:3, "Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh of hosts.
4. **Sensing sin, yet tasting pardon:** V5 &7, "I am a man of unclean lips," V5. "Your iniquity is taken away and your sin purged," V7. There is the message of the Gospel.
5. **Sermon Emphasizes what the voice of the Lord is saying,** V8.

12 Questions to Answer about Worship

1. **Has Culture Influenced You?** Is the worship first and then the sermon? Music is a means of worship. Worship doesn't have style that is old or new. We are commanded to sing hymns, Eph. 5:19. It is not the work of a band, we bring worship to God.
2. **What Myths have I been Fed?** 1) Is worship an experience meant to do something for me? No, it is obedience to give God honor that He deserves. 2) Modern worship is informal because Jesus was informal? Worship involves humility and obedience. Jn. 18, when Jesus revealed Himself as "I AM," the soldiers fell down. Matt. 17, at Jesus' transfiguration, Peter, James, and John were terrified. Rev. 1:17, John fell like a dead man at the presence of Jesus. There is a formal way to approach a Holy God.
3. **History of Worship:** Prior to Mt. Sinai, Adam and Eve had direct access to God. After The Fall there was separation and mediation was necessary. An animal sacrifice was needed to clothe them. Abel offered the fat of his flock, a more excellent sacrifice, Heb. 11:4. Noah worshipped at an altar, Gen. 8:20-21. Moses worshipped at the burning bush. Passover required a lamb. After Mt. Sinai, God revealed His presence in the tabernacle. Through the priesthood, there was a mediated communion with God. Jesus also dwelt among His people (Jn. 1:14). Jn. 13, Jesus demonstrated our need to be cleansed from the sin in the world. 1 Jn. 1:9, there is a command to confess sin as a believer. In the tabernacle there was a laver to wash and cleanse, a lampstand to light the way, a table with loaves of bread for thanksgiving of God's provision. Jesus is called the bread of life, Jn. 6. There was an altar of incense where prayers would be made, Christ now intercedes for us, Heb. 7:24-28. The Ark of the Covenant contained the Law of God and was sprinkled with blood for sin. A temple was built that was permanent and was a sacred place of worship of Yahweh. Jn. 4:21, Jesus said a time was coming to worship in spirit and truth, but a sacred space for worship was the practice of the church once persecution ended around the 3rd century.
4. **Basis for Worship:** OT worship seen as dark and bloody; NT seen as easy. The basis for both is sacrifice. Worship requires sacrifice. Leviticus provides instructions to facilitate holiness and cleansing for worship. There was instruction and atonement for different sins through different offerings. Christ fulfilled the Law and covered sin. Now believer's give to support the kingdom and demonstrate a changed life. Worship isn't free.

5) **What is the Proper Attitude of Worship?** Is it joy, excitement? Those can be present. 1) Homage, humility, and bowing, Ex. 4:31. There is a weightiness or heaviness. The wise men came and bowed down to Jesus, Matt. 2:11. 2) Service to God: worship as a slave to a master, Matt. 4:10, “worship and serve.” Romans 12:1. 3) Reverence and Awe: fear of God, return to God what He is due. Ex.: Josh. 5:13-15, Job 1:20-22.

6) **How to Regulate Worship?** God rejects self-styled worship. Ex.: Cain, Gen. 4. Golden Calf, Exod. 32. Nadah & Abihu, Lev. 10. Saul, 1 Sam. 15:3, 24. Israel not heard because of their evil, Is. 1:14-16. In the NT, decently and in order, 1 Cor. 14:40. Rev. 2:4, can’t worship without love for God. Rev. 2:14-15, worship is without compromised truth. Rev. 3:1-2, can’t please the world and worship the Lord with dead works and rebellious sin.

7) **What is the Practice of Worship?** 1) Proclaimed Word of God, Col. 3:16, 2 Tim. 4:2. 2) Giving thanks, 1 Thess. 5:18. 3) Prayer and confession, 1 Jn. 1:9, 1 Thess. 5:17. 4) Praise, Eph. 5:19. 5) Edifying one another, 1 Thess. 5:11. 6) Believer’s baptism, public act of obedience. 7) Lord’s Supper, 1 Cor. 11:17-34. 8) Giving to the Lord, 2 Cor. 9:7, cheerfully not grudgingly.

8) **Who is the Worship Leader?** Worship is shaped by the knowledge of God. The elders of the local church set the tone and lead in worship shepherding the body, 1 Pet. 5:2.

9) **Who can actually worship?** Done in spirit (humility) and truth (knowledge of the work of Christ to save us). Doctrine is made visible in worship. 1 Cor. 14:25, prophesying (speaking and proclaiming) the Word of God convicts the unbeliever of the secrets in their heart and leads to worship. Worship should not be made too accessible to unbelievers. True worship is evangelistic proclaiming the truths of sin and separation with God apart from forgiveness of sin. Christ’s atonement is for those who believe and obey.

10) **What is the Biblical Model of Music Worship?** Choirs, instruments, hymnals, and singing to one another all assist in worship. It is not a performance. Competent leadership is needed. Music is to be singable, not a solo act. It is to be uplifting in nature, interactive to sing or listen.

11) **How do I put this into practice?** 1) Genuinely repent of self-focus towards God. 2) Prepare for worship in prayer. 3) Confession of sin brings weightiness to worship. 4) Do your part to contribute to a prayerful attitude and atmosphere for worship. 5) Take step of faith to build life around worship.

Further Discussion and Application

What can we do throughout the week to prepare for the worship of God on the Lord’s Day? What other worship have we done throughout the week to prepare for worship? What do we need to “put off” in our lives in order to “put on” more time in study, worship, and prayer?

Worship becomes life changing, inspired by seeing the glory of our Savior and worshipping and honoring Him. What are the results of worship in your life? What sins have been put off because our lives are increasingly committed to worship and serve the Lord?

What have we learned in Scripture that has increased our awareness of God’s character and increased our fear of the Lord. Why do fear Him now more than ever? What have we learned?