

Worship is a bigger concept than what we think it is. Most people think worship is singing songs.

What do you think worship is?

START 

Worship is defined as a show of reverence and adoration, specifically for a deity.

A deity is God. Or “a god” or “the God.” For most people it’s “insert your preferred deity here.” As Christians, our deity is defined by the Bible.

You were made to worship God. God created you to worship him. That’s the point of your existence. After he created all the animals, God then created man. And man was different, because he had a choice to worship, praise, and love God back.

Animals can’t love God back.

Isaiah 43:21 (ESV) says, *“the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.”*

We were made to declare God’s praise to the world around you.

Proclaim these words out loud while you read this—**I was made to worship.**

Being made to worship doesn’t necessarily mean you were made to sing. I sure can’t. Worship doesn’t require a great singing voice, and your ability to carry a tune doesn’t define your ability to worship.

John 4:24 (ESV) says, *“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

Worship seeps out of the truth that lives within us. When you give reverence to God he is worshipped. The true heart of a worshipper should seek to exalt God for who He is and what he has done.

You were created to live in awe of your creator.

If you don’t worship God, **you will worship something.** Our DNA compels us to worship. For some of us, we worship technology, sports, activities, our kids, or relationships. People often navigate from one broken relationship to another. Some people worship material things such as food, clothes, houses.

Make a list of the things you worship?

As an undergrad, I did a paper on the sport of NASCAR as a religion. I got an A+ because I proved that NASCAR is religion. At the time I wrote the paper, Dale Earnhart Sr. had died on the track during a race. He was number 3. When I went to my first NASCAR race, every fan stood up on the third lap and held three fingers in the air. It was eerie. And it was religion. This liturgical rite revealed one of the many forms of worship in NASCAR.

But you won't just find worship in NASCAR, you'll also find it in football, baseball, basketball, arts, and music. Worship is all around us, because humans were made to worship. When you elevate something so much that you revere it and adore it, that's worship.

You are going to worship something. If you don't worship God on a daily basis, you will replace the worship of him with the worship of something or someone else.

Have you replaced God with something or someone else? If so, who or what?

Don't know the answer? Ask your loved ones, they will be able to tell you without hesitation.

You worship what you love.

We're supposed to love God and love people. But if you're not doing those things, you're worshipping something. You might even be self-worshipping. When you treat people like they're nothing and everything is about how you can service yourself or your desires, you self-worship. In a social media-driven world, self-worship is the norm.

You don't worship what you don't love.

I don't worship what I don't love. This could be a team of a sport, an event, person, or activity.

It's easy to not worship something when you don't like it, but what about something you do enjoy or even love? Maybe a spouse or friend?

Unexpressed love isn't love.

That's powerful. That could change your marriage right now. I've heard people say, "I told my wife I loved her on my wedding day, and I haven't told her since. She knows I love her."

I'd hate to be that person's wife.

How long has it been since you've told your spouse or kids you love them? _____

What about your parents or friends? _____

I tell my wife and kids I love them all the time. I told my son, "You know why I tell you, 'I love you' all the time? It's because I want you to know you are loved."

If you think someone, "knows that I love him." No, he doesn't. Not naturally. People don't know that you love them unless you show and tell them. You need to repeatedly express love to people you care about, just like you need to repeatedly express love to your creator.

Worship is loved that is expressed.

When we talk about worship, we're talking about expressing love to God. If you have an extra sofa and give it away to a family in need, that's love. If you open the door for someone with a smile on your face because you love God, then that's worship.

You can't say, "I worship God," but don't do anything to show it or live it.

I've seen some pretty nasty Christian faces who don't look like they worship. I have never once seen them display worship. They don't have a spirit of active worship.

If you really love God, you express that love for Him, you don't hide it under a frown or grimace.

You don't consult your feelings to determine if God is worthy of being praised.

Sundays are tough. I have Sundays where my family is heading to church but we are all mad at each other. Then you get to church, and you have to put a smile on your face. For some people, they will say, "I had a terrible morning. I'm not going to sing or talk to people or be happy."

In moments like these, you are actually consulting your feelings to determine if God is worthy of being worshipped. "I don't feel like it. So I'm not going to worship today."

God is always worthy of worship. Whether or not you feel like it, got enough sleep, are content with your career or amount of money you make or fulfilled in your marriage or relationships. It doesn't matter. God is worthy because He created us, loved us, and sent His Son for you.

What isn't worship?

Worship is not a tempo or rhythm.

It's not a beat. There are people who love a fast rhythm in praise music. When a service is all slower songs, they say, "It's terrible. That's not worship."

Nope. That style just didn't fit their preference. Some people love slow songs and believe that's all you can have in church. Umm, nope. That's not a thing in Scripture, either.

Worship is not a hymn or song.

There are songs I prefer or don't prefer. But I know my reference doesn't matter, it's all about revering and adoring God. I've worshipped with secular music before. You can. If there's a song that talks about love, and you're thinking about your Savior and how thankful you are because He loves you, you can technically call that worship. But you do have to make sure it has appropriate lyrics.

And the song doesn't have to be a Christian song written by Christian artists. There are a lot of secular Christmas songs that we consider to be worship.

Worship is not a type of instrument.

There are churches that don't have drums because they don't feel like that's worship. That's not in Scripture. It never says that. Psalm 150:4-6 clearly communicates that percussion instruments are acceptable in worship.

Read Psalm 150:4-6. What instruments or types of instruments does the bible mention as part of worship?

Worship is not a feeling or emotion.

You don't feel God. "I don't feel God this morning, so I can't worship."

God is not a feeling or emotion. You just have a knowledge and understanding that comes from the Gospel. That's how you know you have Christ in you.

Worship has nothing to do with us and everything to do with God.

It's always about God. Nothing else. When you make it about anything else, you elevate yourself above God.

What is worship?

Worship is the only gift you can give to God.

There's no other gift we can give to God. Even when we tithe, it's not a gift to God. When we tithe we return God's treasure back to him. When we look at Scripture, we're to test God to give to Him to receive blessings in return.

But when we worship, we give ourselves to God. You are the only gift you can give to God.

The gift of YOU is a response.

It's a response to how you love your Savior. Every part of this service is worship. Praise, prayers, tithing, baptism, sermons, testimonies, are all worship.

You can go to any church and worship no matter the style of sermon, volume of music, or selection of songs styles.

And you don't have to feel like everything is good in the world to worship God. You should be able to worship God in the highest highs and lowest lows.

Your worship is a reflection.

Genesis 1:27 (ESV) says, *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*

What this verse says in the original Hebrew is that we were created in the characteristics and likeness of God. We are like Christ. We are to reflect God to the world. Like the moon reflecting the sun's light. We are like the moon.

We are a reflection of God's light to the world. Worship is just us adequately reflecting God to the people around us. We reflect in how we act, serve, and love.

Praise is a small part of that. As Christians, **we need to live a life that reflects God to those who don't know him.**

Does your life reflect God's love on a regular basis? If so, how? If not, why not?

If you want to worship God, you need to get into God's word and do that over and over again in your daily life.

Romans 12:1 (ESV) says, *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."*

The Bible confirms you are a reflection. Everything you do is worship. If you're not worshipping God and showing Him to people, you're showing the opposite.

Everything you do is a sacrifice. The world we live in wants you to go in a different direction. You have to sacrifice to show God. To be a Christian is to go counter-culture.

Worship is faithfully stewarding money.

Not just giving tithes and offerings, but also making sure to take care of your family by providing shelter and food. Be responsible. Don't horde money until tax season to blow it all at a casino or splurge on a new car or event. Exercise wisdom in your spending and honor God with your treasure.

Worship is managing healthy relationships.

Platonic and romantic relationships. Familial relationships. You worship God when you love someone unselfishly and unconditionally and don't make the relationship about you.

Worship is serving others at home, school, work, etc.

God calls his people to serve each other. Life is better lived when you elevate others and sacrifice your time and energy to make the world a better place.

Worship is living right, making the right decisions, following God's lead in Scripture.

The Bible is a guidebook for life. When you follow God's lead you honor him. Honoring God's word is worship.

Worship is praising God.

When we sing together on Sunday mornings, it's not for you. I used to believe this when I was young. "They better play my favorite songs, or it's not worship for me."

Once I realized what Scripture said, I realized I was wrong. Worship is not about what I could sing. It was what I could add to the experience of worshipping God. Try to make every song worship. I don't like every style of worship music. When I go to church, I can sing hymns, choruses, contemporary, rap, etc. And you can too.

If you've ever said the words, "That's not worship." You're *wrong*.

Worship comes from the heart of the worshipper, not the mind or preferences of another believer.

If it's pointing to God, it's worship.

You may not like every style of music, but they all can be worship. Once you get past your preferences, it's amazing.

Worship can be spoken and unspoken.

You can worship with your body too. I've seen people raise their hands and dance. Mute people can worship without song. Children with a severe cognitive disability can use motions to communicate how they feel about God.

Have you ever worshipped God in a way that didn't include singing? If so, how?

In foreign countries, you may have no idea what they are saying in church, but those can be some of the greatest worship experiences in a person's life.

You can love God in different forms. True worship allows you to love people across generations, cultures, and ethnicities.

Psalms 150:1-6 (ESV) says, *“Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!”*

There are other verses about clapping, raising hands. The Bible shows many ways to praise God. You can use anything to praise Him.

Worship is practice.

Sundays are practice for eternity. Angels surround the throne of God and sing, “Holy, holy, holy.” You probably wouldn’t enjoy a worship service like that. But you need to get ready for eternity. I’m not saying we’re going to get to heaven and just sing, “Holy, holy, holy.” We are getting ready for our eternal experiencing of worshipping the God who loves us.

We have to put aside all our hurts, sorrows, frustrations, anything that holds us back from worship and just give to God. That’s what makes it special.

Revelation 4:11 (ESV) says, *“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”*

God made us all. He’s worthy of praise.

Worship isn’t repayment.

It isn’t a currency. It’s something you give to God regardless of any conditions in life, because of who He is. If you can only worship God when life feels blessed, it’s a you-issue.

Worship in the good and bad. It’s your response to Him. Give God your worship. You have to step outside the boundaries of what you think worship is. Sunday’s are about what you can bring to worship, not take away from it.

Take yourself to church and give yourself as a living sacrifice. Together with the other living sacrifices, you can glorify God, when you corporately give God your worship.

Tomorrow morning when you first set your alarm, **wake up to worship.**

My wife and I wake up each morning and say, “I love you, good morning!” Have you ever said? “I love you” to God? What if tomorrow you wake up and say, “I love you this morning, God.”

I don’t tell God multiple times a day, “I love you.” I don’t even say it multiple times a week. I try hard to show Him how much I love him, but I need to also **tell** Him. Try it. Tell God you love him every day, your mindset will change.

Are you ready to start worship? Elevating God to where He belongs. Not because of what He’s done for you but because of who He is to you.