

Living a Life of Worship

Created to Worship

Main Idea: We were made to worship.

Psalm 95:1-7 (NLT)

¹ Come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

² Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him.

³ For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods.

⁴ He holds in his hands the depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains.

⁵ The sea belongs to him, for he made it. His hands formed the dry land, too.

⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker, ⁷ for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care.

Revelation 4:11 (NRSV)

¹¹ 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.'

➤ **Every human being worships something: only God satisfies.**

1. Worship in history and geographically.

- All through history people worshipped. – sun, moon, various aspects of nature, various gods/images.
- Different empires: Romans, Greeks, Egyptians, Chinese, Aztecs. Stone Henge in Britain. Moon/sun worship. Worship nature, trees, mountains, etc.

2. Worship today.

- Around the world, different objects of worship
 - Film stars, pop stars, food, many kinds of spiritual ideas, Halloween (!)
- Hero worship. Wrongfully directed.
- True worship and false worship.

3. Definition

“The true meaning of worship is **showing reverent devotion**, honour and **loving adoration** for something considered **highly important** or **sacred**, typically a **deity** (god), encompassing a **response** of one’s **entire being** (mind, emotions, will and body) to the divine’s perfection, power and glory.

It involves **expressing** this reverence through acts of praise, prayer, gratitude, joyful obedience, submission, and lifestyle choices, and is fundamentally about **recognizing** and **valuing God’s worth** and fulfilling humanity’s purpose for his glory.”

4. Greek: *proskuneo*, to kiss towards, bow down, or show reverence or devotion

Hebrew: *shachah*, to bow down, prostrate oneself, signifying a posture of reverence and submission.
Another word, ***Barach***, to bless.

- Worship is used 171 to 188 times in Bible, praise 159 times.
- Gen 22:5 first mention in the Bible, “I (Abraham) and the lad will go yonder and worship.”
- A simpler definition: “*the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity (god).*”

5. True Biblical worship

Luke 4:8 (RSV)

“And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’”

Psalm 27:4 (RSV)

“One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.”

2 Kings 17:36 (NIV)

*But **the Lord**, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, **is the one you must worship**. To him you shall bow down and to him offer sacrifices.*

- Worship the Creator, not the created.
- True worship – God alone.
- We can respect, admire things/people, but not worship.
- Only God is to be worshipped.

6. From the heart/innermost being, where only God truly satisfies.

➤ **Worship is our response to God’s greatness.**

Praise: faster songs, exuberant, joyful
Praise God for what He does/did, His acts

Worship: slower, quieter songs, sense or reverence.
Worship God for who He is, His being, words like: awe, holy, grandeur, splendour, magnificence

Praise and worship overlap, there’s not a clear division, each contains the other. They are similar/intertwined.
Here we are concentrating on worship, but praise is involved.

Psalm 95:1-7 seems to start with praising God for His works, then flows into worshipping Him, but again, intertwined.

Psalm 95:1-7 (RSV)

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³ For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it; for his hands formed the dry land.

⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Revelation 4:11 (NRSV)

¹¹ 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.'