



FAMILY STUDY

What is Worship?

EPISODE
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"What is Worship?"

Our Primary Function...

According to the Bible, we were created and are called to worship God (Isaiah 43:21). Yet, there are many questions surrounding worship. What exactly is worship? Whom should we worship? How do we worship? The answers to many of these questions are eloquently provided by God Himself in Deuteronomy 10:12.

"And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul."

Let's break down that verse and explore what it means to worship God in every area of our lives. We encourage you to study the Scripture references cited here, and we pray that you will gain a greater appreciation and understanding of what worship is and how to make it the center of your life!

1. Fear the Lord...

The first concept from Deuteronomy 10:12, and the starting point for worship, is to fear the Lord. Yet, upon hearing this, many people get the wrong idea. Although the fear that God's enemies have is full of terror, those who love God should have a different kind of fear; we should be filled with awe and reverence, filled with absolute humility. Think of meeting a great and powerful king. You would hold him in such awe and reverence that there might even be a little fear of him. One of the words used for worship in the Bible means to bow down. The world understands that most religions bow down to and worship certain "deities." What they don't understand is that there is, in reality, only one God. Therefore, a proper concept of worship must be inseparably tied to the One True God, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In our worship, we should have the attitude of bowing before an immense, immeasurable, almighty and awesome King!

Deut. 6:13	1 Chron. 16:28-31	Psalms 95:4-7	1 Peter 2:17
Deut. 10:20	Psalms 22:23	Psalms 96:9	Rev. 14:7
Joshua 24:14-15	Psalms 29:1-4	Proverbs 3:7	
1 Samuel 12:24	Psalms 33:8	Ecclesiastes 12:13-14	

2. Walk in His Ways...

The thing that most people miss about worship is the fact that worship is not simply an activity that we partake in, but a way to live. Worship isn't a Sunday morning activity, but an all-consuming lifestyle. And in order to live lives of worship, we must walk in God's ways and follow God in everything. In every thought, word, and deed, we must honor and obey God. We know what God requires of us by reading His Word. By obeying God and walking in His ways we are actually worshipping the Lord. The Bible is very clear that God is more pleased with obedience than any kind of sacrifice, and this would include the sacrifice of singing or going to church. Living our whole lives by walking in God's ways is the most important part of worship.

Leviticus 18:5	1 Samuel 15:22	John 15:10	1 John 3:24
Leviticus 25:18	Psalms 119:60	Matthew 9:13	1 John 5:2-4
Deuteronomy 13:4	Hosea 6:6	Romans 2:13	
Deuteronomy 27:10	John 14:15, 23-24	1 John 2:3	

3. Love Him...

One of the main reasons we go to church and sing songs of praise to God is to show our love and devotion to Him. It is important to express our love to God in song, but there's more to it than that. When you love someone, how do you express that love? Almost all expressions of love consist of spending time with that person. Therefore, expressing our love for God is not just a once a week event, it needs to be a daily custom. If we love God, we'll want to know what He has spoken to us through His Word. We'll also want to talk to Him in prayer on a continual basis. If you only spoke to your family once in while, you wouldn't have much of a relationship. We need to show God our love every day through reading His Word, praying, and yes, even singing songs of praise to Him! This, built upon a life of obedience to God, is how we worship God by loving Him.

Deuteronomy 6:5	Joshua 22:5	Psalms 119:97	Mark 12:30
Deuteronomy 11:1	Joshua 23:11	Isaiah 12:5-6	Luke 10:27
Deuteronomy 30:16	Psalms 95:2	Matthew 22:37	Hebrews 2:12

4. Serve the Lord...

Service is probably the most overlooked aspect of worship. Many people don't even see it as a form of worship. The Bible says differently. In many Scripture passages, the original words for "worship" and "serve" are used interchangeably. In the eyes of the Jewish people, and in the eyes of the New Testament church, serving God was a form of worship. We need to have that same attitude. The ministries in our churches need volunteers in order to keep operating. Your friends and neighbors have needs that you can meet, and in doing so, you can serve God. Unfortunately, too many Christians don't even consider service. If we want to truly worship God, we need to do so by serving Him, whether in a ministry or in some other way. Whether you're cleaning the church or changing diapers in the nursery, you are worshipping God by serving others.

1 Samuel 12:24	Mark 10:45	Romans 12:1	James 4:17
Matthew 20:26	John 12:26	1 Corinthians 12:5	

5. With All Your Heart...

Just going through the motions of singing or reading the Word are not enough. Would you want your children to obey you in deed while having wrong attitudes? God doesn't want that either. It's great to serve in ministries, but if you have the wrong motive or attitude, your sacrifice is tainted and worthless to God. God wants us to serve Him with all of our hearts. In doing so, everything becomes an act of worship. You can even make working at your job a sacrifice of worship. You must have the attitude that you are placed there by God, and you work to please Him, not your boss. In this frame of mind, all that we do can be worship to the Lord.

Deut. 6:5, 26:16	1 Kings 8:61	Mark 12:30-33	Eph. 6:6-7
Joshua 22:5	Matthew 22:37	Romans 12:11	Col. 3:23

What is Worship?

Worship is not merely an activity that we occasionally engage in. It is not merely the act of praying, Scripture reading, singing or serving God. These things can be present and still not equate worship. True worship begins in the heart that is truly bowed down to God, devoting every thought, word, and action to Him for His glory. Worship is not something to do, but rather a way to live! May we all live in such a way, and may we truly worship God!