

WORSHIP

A definition...

~ Psalm 96

INTRODUCTION

- Through out the bible we are commanded to worship God. Psalm 100:1-2 says “ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.

CONT.

- This is repeated again and again in the Psalms. We are created to worship God. Westminster catechism says “ Chief end on man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

CONT.

- But before we talk about why and how we should worship, let us find out the meaning of worship. When you think of worship what comes to your mind?
- Does the worship makes you think of robed priests with incense and candles, of color and ceremony?

CONT.

- Or does worship suggests wayside chapel on country road having a battered sign: A place for prayer? Does worship makes you think of preaching or communion? Of singing or praying? Of praising or meditating?

CONT.

- The word worship is used by many Christians for wide variety of experiences and expressions. It is not surprising that the phrase worship service is used in several ways as well.

MEANING OF WORSHIP

- Worship is an active response to God whereby we declare His worth. Psalm 96:7-8
- William Temple, the late Archbishop of Canterbury, define worship as “Worship is the submission of all our will to God.

CONT.

- It is quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose ---

CONT.

- And all of these gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin and the source of all actual sin.

SUBMISSION TO GOD

- Worship is submission of all our nature to God. Mind, body and soul. It means to give ourselves totally to God. Psalm 27:4
- It is life of sacrifice. John 12:1-8

QUICKENING OF OUR CONSCIENCE

- The second element of this definition is the quickening of our conscience by His holiness. The quickening means, “to make alive, to cause to be enlivened, to cause burn more intensely.” This is what happened to prophet Isaiah. Isa. 6:3

IMAGINATION OF HIS BEAUTY

- Worship is to enjoy the beauty of our God. Psalm 27:4. Inspired biblical worship purifies the Christian mind. It cleanses our thought life.

OPENING THE HEART

- The fourth element of true worship, according to William Temple, is to open one's heart to His love and to develop a passionate relationship with Him by recognizing how much He loves His people. Rom. 5:8

SURRENDERING OF WILL

- The fifth element of biblical worship according to William Temple, is the surrender of will to His purpose. Isa. 6:8

CONCLUSION

- True biblical worship is when believers come together to magnify the name of God. They recognize that God is the supreme celebrity and we are here to celebrate Him, enjoy His presence and make Him look good in this world.