

ENTHRONING GOD

THE CHURCH'S WORSHIP

Worship is the highest expression of honour possible. To *honour* someone is to treat them as *important*. No one is worthy of more honour than God. What makes worship a type of honour different to all other forms of honour is that involves *complete surrender*.

1. When tempted by the Devil to worship someone other than God, how did Jesus respond? (Matthew 4:10-11)

2. In what way do the first two of the Ten Commandments directly involve worship? (Exodus 20)

To worship someone or something other than God, is to commit the grievous sin of *idolatry*.

3. What does the Apostle Paul identify as the “god” of some people in Philippians 3:9? (And also discuss: Colossians 3:5)

4. How does the New Testament say that believers should regard someone who claims to be Christian yet commits idolatry? (1Cor. 5:11)
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The New Testament places the highest emphasis on worship. It is the most important act a person can commit. To render worship to God is to fulfil our created purpose and bring pleasure to our Maker. To withhold worship from God and inappropriately give it to another is to commit an intolerable act of treason. (Note First Corinthians 10:14; First John 5:21.)

RECEIVING SALVATION IS A PERSON'S FIRST ACT OF WORSHIP

5. In what way is a person's acceptance of Christ's salvation for them their first act of worship?
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The primary purpose of the Church is to facilitate the worship of God.

6. What does Hebrews 13:15 instruct the church to do?
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7. Based on Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16, what activities of the early Church would have been central to their meetings together?
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There is a tendency among some churches to take the emphasis off worship in their meetings, because the unchurched visitor does not understand or appreciate the songs and hymns of the church. There are two responses to this. Firstly, the unchurched visitor is not the immediate audience for these songs (God is). Secondly,

the unchurched visitor expects that there will be acts of worship within a church service. Because the Church's primary purpose is to worship, its main purpose in gathering together as an assembly is to worship.

8. Beyond the choice and style of songs sung in a church, how does a church express its worship of God?

Because worship is an expression of total surrender, it is possible for believers to worship God in a church service beyond the singing. While some people think that giving to their church is only about money and fund-raising, our giving becomes a powerful expression of worship as give we up what is ultimately valuable to most people and surrender it to God. Our attention to the preached Word is also a powerful expression of worship as we allow God to shape our lives according to His will.

USING OUR TIME, TALENT, & TREASURE

Our worship of God begins when we surrender to Him. With this surrender comes a revelation of our true condition: *we are helpless sinners in need of a helpful Saviour*. The aging John Newton, author of the hymn- *Amazing Grace*, put it this way: I am a great sinner but Christ is a great Saviour.

9. What was it that enthroned God in Israel according to Psalm 22:3?

When the Church worships it is not to manipulate, manoeuvre, or even 'manifest' God and His presence. It is not so that the church 'feels God', 'touches God', or even 'builds a throne for God to enter in and be seated'. The church worships because God deserves it! He owes us nothing. He is never beholden to us because we worship Him.

10. What is God seeking according to John 4:23?

11. How does Romans 12:1 support the idea that worship is ultimately an act of surrender to God?

12. What might actually happen if an unbeliever attends a Church worship service where believers are sincerely worshiping God? (1Cor. 14:25)

The Greek word for *worship* is *proskuneo*. This means to *move toward, bow, and kiss (in the sense of a subject kissing a king's ring, or a defeated and humiliated enemy kissing a king's feet)*. This is why worship is either an act of *humility* or *humiliation*.

13. In light of this understanding of *proskuneo* how does claim in Philippians 2:10-11 make sense that everyone will one day worship Jesus?

Those who worship Christ gladly now will do so happily for eternity after this life. Those who refuse to worship Christ now will have to do it against their wills for eternity.

14. What would you say to another believer in your church who says that they don't join in the singing because they don't have a good voice?

Whatever time, talent or treasure you have, it is your privilege to pool it with the rest of the Church to worship God (note Galatians 6:7; Eph. 6:8; Col. 3:17, 23).

Amen.