

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT WORSHIP / *1 Corinthians 14:26*

Worship is first and foremost an encounter with the living and holy God.

“ ‘Do not come any closer,’ God told him. ‘Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground’ ” (Exodus 3:5).

God is our friend, but he is also our sovereign Lord. To approach him frivolously shows a lack of respect and sincerity. When you come to God in worship, do you approach him casually, or do you come as though you were an invited guest before a king?

Worship is only as real as the involvement of those participating.

“The Lord gave these instructions to Moses on Mount Sinai when he commanded the Israelites to bring their offerings to the Lord in the wilderness of Sinai” (Leviticus 7:38).

All the rituals in Leviticus were meant to teach the people valuable lessons. But over time, the people became indifferent. When your church appears to be conducting dry, meaningless rituals, try rediscovering the meaning and purpose behind them. Your worship will be revitalized.

A true worship experience is often a direct result of preparation for worship.

“The Lord said to Moses, ‘Give these instructions to the people of Israel: The offerings you present to me by fire on the altar are my food, and they are very pleasing to me. See to it that they are brought at the appointed times and offered according to my instructions’ ” (Numbers 28:1-2).

Following these rituals took time, and this gave the people the opportunity to prepare their heart for worship. Unless your heart is ready, worship is meaningless. God is delighted when you are prepared to come before him in a spirit of thankfulness.

Believers should take advantage of every opportunity to worship and praise God.

“Sing praises to God, our strength. Sing to the God of Israel. Sing! Beat the tambourine. Play the sweet lyre and the harp. Sound the trumpet for a sacred feast when the moon is new, when the moon is full” (Psalm 81:1-3).

Israel’s holidays reminded the nation of God’s great miracles. Remember the spiritual origin of the holidays you celebrate and use them as opportunities to worship God for his goodness to you, your family, and your nation.

Worship and music go hand in hand.

“David and the army commanders then appointed men from the families of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun to proclaim God’s message to the accompaniment of harps, lyres, and cymbals” (1 Chronicles 25:1).

David instituted music for the temple worship services. Worship should involve the whole person, and music helps lift a person’s thoughts and emotions to God. Through music you can celebrate God’s greatness.

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Worship is bringing the best believers have to Christ.

“They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were, and they fell down before him and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11).

The wise men brought gifts and worshiped Jesus for who he was. This is the essence of true worship—honoring Christ for who he is and being willing to give him what is valuable to you. Worship God because he is worthy of the best you have to give.

Genuine worship results in submission and obedience to Jesus.

“But even as he said it, a bright cloud came over them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with him. Listen to him’ ” (Matthew 17:5).

Jesus is more than just a great leader. He is the Son of God. When you understand this profound truth, the only adequate response is worship. When you have a correct understanding of Christ, you will obey him.

Everything done in corporate worship must be beneficial to the worshippers.

“Since you are so eager to have spiritual gifts, ask God for those that will be of real help to the whole church” (1 Corinthians 14:12).

This principle touches every aspect of worship. Those contributing to a worship service must have love as their chief motivation, speaking useful words or participating in a way that will strengthen the faith of other believers.

In worship, everything must be done in harmony and with order.

“Be sure that everything is done properly and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Even when the gifts of the Holy Spirit are being exercised, there is no excuse for disorder. When there is chaos, the church is not allowing God to work among believers as he would like. Make sure that what you bring to worship is appropriate, but also make sure that you participate.