

**Part I:  
What is Worship?  
(Definition)**

*Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.' Luke 4:8 (NASB95)*

1. "You shall worship" – **WORSHIP IS A MATTER OF FACT**, We all worship somebody/something. At some point all will worship the one true God (Isaiah 45:23; Philippians 2:9-11)
2. "You shall worship" – **BOW DOWN, lit. or fig. A TANGIBLE, PHYSICAL EXPRESSION OR RESPONSE.** Greek *proskuneo* – Lit. *pros*, toward; *kuneo*, to kiss. (Equivalent to O.T. *shachah*, bow down. See Gen. 22:5.) There are two aspects to this concept of worship...
  - a. **IN REVERENT RESPONSE TO HIS SUPREMACY, SOVEREIGNTY, DEITY, ATTRIBUTES, WORKS.**
  - b. **AS AN EXPRESSION OF AFFECTION/ADORATION (PDA).** Note the balance between a and b.
3. "and serve Him" – **A LIFESTYLE OF SUBMISSION TO HIS REVEALED WILL.** Greek *latreuo*, to work as a hired servant (equivalent to O.T. *abad*, serve. See Deut. 6:13)
4. "Him only" – **WORSHIP BELONGS EXCLUSIVELY TO GOD!** Implication that other things/people are constantly going to compete for God's place in our lives!

*"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24 (NASB95)*

5. "worship in spirit" – **BEGINS WITHIN! AS OUR SPIRIT INTERACTS WITH HIS SPIRIT.**
6. "worship in truth" – **BASED ON REVEALED TRUTH!** In response to what God has shown us to be true about Himself, His character, nature, attributes (*distinguishing qualities*), works, etc. We don't invent the God we want and then worship that God!

For another important perspective on the biblical concept of worship, read the following passage from the Old Testament and discuss what it adds to our definition of worship. **Read Genesis 22:1-5.**

7. "offer him" (v.2) – **WORSHIP ALWAYS INVOLVES SACRIFICE!** Hebrew, *alah*, go up, bring or lift up, i.e. *surrendering up to God that which means most to us!*

Summary:

Summarize our observations from the passages above into a brief definition of worship which includes each of the components we discovered:

## Part 2: What does Worship Look Like? (Forms)

In this section, our goal is to explore the different forms of expression worship can take. Again, using Scripture as our source. Read the following passages and list how worship is expressed in each:

Psalm 33:1-3

- Sing (3x)
- Give thanks
- Play skillfully (lyre & harp)
- Shout of **joy**
- **Joy** (2x)

Psalm 47:1-6

- Clap your hands
- Shout to God w/ **Joy**
- Sing **praises** (5x)

Psalm 63:4

- Bless You
- Lift up my hands

Psalm 95:6

- Bow down
- Kneel

Psalm 96:7-10

- Ascribe/give (glory & strength)
- Bring offering
- Fall down at His holiness
- Tremble
- Say among the nations...

Psalm 100:1-4

- Shout joyfully
- Serve with gladness
- **Joyful** singing
- Thanks (2x)
- **Praise**
- Bless His name

Psalm 150:1-6

- **Praise** (13x)
- Instruments (8 kinds)
- Dancing

Luke 6:23; Acts 3:8

- Leaping
- Leaping and **praising** God

Summary:

Each of these different forms of worship can be placed into one of two categories which reflect the two words Jesus used for worship in Luke 4:8

Worship – **TANGIBLE, PHYSICAL EXPRESSIONS OF REVERENCE & ADORATION**

Serve – **LIFESTYLES OF SUBMITTING TO GOD'S REVEALED WILL**, i.e. “obedience to His commands” which can be summarized in loving God and loving others!

A thoughtful examination of the forms of worship listed above leads to the conclusion that genuine, biblical worship involves **OUR ENTIRE BEING** (It is EXPRESSIVE!) and is for **GOD'S GLORY**! (cf. Psalm 29:2; 1 Chronicles 16:29; Philippians 3:3; Revelation 14:7) *Worship is NEVER about what WE get out of it!*

For Further Thought...

- It is important to maintain a balance between these two primary forms of worship in both our personal and collective practice of worship.
- A proper understanding of worship will result in a balance between planned or intentional times of worship and spontaneous expressions of worship
- The quality of our collective worship is dependent upon the quality of our personal worship.

### Part 3: Where Do We Begin? (Practice)

1. **Accept** and **submit** to the truth that **worshipping God** is what we were **created to do** . (Isaiah 43:7; Ephesians 2:10). This being true...
  - **Nothing else will give the sense of fulfillment worshipping God does** .
  - **Pursuing anything above worshipping God is idolatry**, i.e. anything that takes the place of worshipping God as our primary pursuit (top priority) becomes an idol!

*“Worshipping God is the essence of our existence...”*

2. Accept God's **invitation** to **seek Him out** at the point of His **revelation** , and consciously **Enter His presence** (Deuteronomy 4:29; Jeremiah 29:13; Matthew 7:7)

Keep in mind...

- We only enter God's presence through **Jesus Christ** (John 14:6)
  - God's primary means of revelation are His **creation**, His **word** , and His **Son** . (Romans 1:18; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Hebrews 1:1-2)
3. Respond **appropriately** to what God shows you to be **true** about **Himself** , realizing this will involve...
    - **An inner, spiritual response** , i.e. what kind of attitude is evoked? Thanks, awe, amazement, humility, etc.
    - **An outer, physical response/expression** , i.e. See list on p.2 (verbal expression or physical posture)
    - **A lifestyle response** , i.e. a life of obedience/submission to His revealed will that results in loving God and loving others.

## First Steps

Complete the statements listed below, using them as a template for getting started in authentically following Jesus in worship:

1. *Today I looked up toward God, consciously entering His presence in worship by...*
2. *Something He showed me to be true about Himself is...*
3. *The response this produced in my heart was...*
4. *I chose to express my response physically by intentionally...*
5. *Something I believe God wants me to do in obedience to what He has shown me is...*

*Short term –*

*Long term –*

6. *Something I want to bring as an offering to our next time of corporate worship is...*

*Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His  
hand.*

*Psalm 95:6-7*