

Worship
August 6, 2017
Romans 11:36-12:2

For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
Romans 11:36-12:2 (NKJV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

“At its face value definition worship is defined as, “I go down on my knees to, show reverence to. Metaphorically described as the kissing-ground between believers (the Bride) and Christ (the heavenly Bridegroom).”¹

“In the New Testament by kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one) or make reverence, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication.”²

Worship is both a **response** and a **choice**.

The word “worship” is used most always as a verb, an action verb.

“Worship is placing my mind's attention and my heart' affection on who God is and what He's done.”
~ Clayton King

Lets break apart our passage this morning:

Why do we worship?

For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:36

Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; nor are there any works like Your works. All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name.

Psalms 86:8-10

Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.
Psalms 100

He is Creator, Sustainer, Savior, Lord, merciful, loving, righteous, All Knowing, Provider, kind and good, just to name a few. We worship God both for who He is and for what He does!

So what does worship look like?

1) Present ourselves solely to the Lord.

Living sacrifice – this is both our physical bodies and the complete makeup of who we are. Its been said the problem with living sacrifices is they have the tendency to crawl off the altar.

Holy – God is holy. We become holy by putting our faith in Him, and we have no holiness on our own. We then are made holy as we follow Him daily.

Acceptable/ Pleasing – Can I ask God's blessings on the words, actions, thoughts that I have?

Am I presenting myself daily and moment-by-moment as a living sacrifice?

2) Continual renewal.

Mind – Romans 12:2 tells us to be “transformed” by the renewing of our minds. This is not a onetime deal, or even a daily deal, but a moment-by-moment opportunity.

¹ <http://.biblehub.com/greek/4352.htm>

² <http://biblestudytool.com/lexicons/greek/nas/proskuneo/html>

Heart - *Keep vigilant watch over your heart; that's where life starts. Don't talk out of both sides of your mouth; avoid careless banter, white lies, and gossip. Keep your eyes straight ahead; ignore all sideshow distractions. Watch your step, and the road will stretch out smooth before you. Look neither right nor left; leave evil in the dust. Proverbs 4:23-27* (Message)

Guarding of the heart and renewing of the mind is a moment-by-moment activity. **In fact, guarding our heart and renewing our mind is worship.**

Attitude – Life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I respond. ~ **Chuck Swindoll**

3) **Action**

Right action based on Scripture for every Believer.

Right action on how and what God would have me serve and worship Him.

I can love and serve my spouse, kids, Church, coworkers, and classmates with the right motives if I have first taken care of my heart and mind. In fact, if I have done this, then it will result in true and proper worship by how I treat others!

Worship starts in the mind and the heart and always results in action!

Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. 1 Samuel 15:22 – Right motives!

Paul Tripp said the greatest danger to Christianity isn't the world, other religions, or all the "lost people", but rather unauthentic Christianity.

Our true worship in public will never be more than our worship in private.

4) **We were made to worship, and by default, we will.**

We often know what we worship by how we spend our:

Time

Money

What we **value** we worship – Do I value God?

Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and gladness are in His place. Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. The world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; let the field rejoice, and all that is in it. Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth. Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. And say, "Save us, O God of our salvation; gather us together, and deliver us from the Gentiles, to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise. Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting!"

1 Chronicles 16:23-31

Prayer Focus:

- **Is worship a response of my life? Am I choosing to worship?**
- **In order for worship to be true and authentic, am I regularly renewing my mind and guarding my heart? How can I begin or continue?**
- **Am I renewing my mind many times daily? Renewing my heart? How can I begin or continue?**

Unless we have first worshipped by renewing our minds (right attitude) and guarding our hearts (a God filter) then our worship will always be unauthentic. Before true worship is ever shown as an outward expression, it must first be an inward one.