

# Worship

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to raise up sons and daughters of God by teaching the Gospel of Grace, bringing people to spiritual maturity, and providing a culture of true worship and family.

**True worship** - our focus is to glorify God by bringing worship into all aspects of our lives; worship is not just an experience—it is our spirits, joined with Christ, worshipping God in the unity of faith at all times

- **John 4:23-24** But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- How do we worship in spirit and in truth?
- We already looked at our spirits being united with Christ.
- Identity states that we are spirit, made in God's image
- Therefore to worship in spirit we must:
  - Be born again
  - Recognize that we are spirit beings
  - Use our spirit to worship, not our flesh
- This is why everything we do can be worship

## 3 ways to worship in the flesh

- **Appeasement.** We come to church so we can appease an angry God. We must do penance, sacraments to appease God. What can we do to appease God's wrath. Holy works based.
- **Manipulation.** We are here to do whatever we must do to get what we want. If we do this, he'll do that. Praises go up, blessings come down. We worship for breakthrough. Highly emotional, noise, energy to get God's attention through our praise. Get God to notice us, we're serious believers so He gives us what we want.

- Catharsis – We are here to have an emotional experience. We go out and are beaten up by the world, so we come here to refuel. We have problems, so we come to be taught how to deal with our problems. Self-help. We need to get something out of this.

As most people come in and out of church, they tend to be looking for these types of things. But rarely admit it.

- When people are first introduced to the Gospel of Grace, they love the truth. They need this truth
- But when it comes to worship, they revert to one of those 3 models. When they don't get it they move on. Maybe to another church. Maybe out of the church or away from the faith altogether.

### **Why are we here? Why do we do church? How should we worship?**

Our worship should be covenantal. We operate under the new covenant

#### **The New Covenant**

- **Ezekiel 36:26-28** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. <sup>28</sup> Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.
- **Luke 22:19-20** And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." <sup>20</sup> Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.
- **Romans 5:1-2** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**Worship is communion with God. Under the New Covenant, we have peace with God, we are united with Him.**

### **Why do we worship?**

- Communion with God.
- Because He is worthy.

It's actually impossible to separate those two points and discuss them individually. It is only because He is worthy that we are able to have communion with Him, and we desire communion with Him because He is worthy.

### **If we look at Revelation we can see how the worship is in heaven**

- **Revelation 4:11** "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."
- **Revelation 5:9-10** And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, <sup>10</sup> And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."
- **Revelation 5:12** saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"
- **Revelation 5:13** And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"
- **Revelation 7:10** and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
- **Revelation 19:1** After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God!"

It is centered on His worthiness and our salvation – which is what brings us communion with God.

- **Hebrews 10:19-23** Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.

**In the 3 false models – there is no real communion.**

- Contemporaneity – What’s newest is best = wrong thinking
- Sacramental vs Sacerdotal

**In the 3 false models – we can only do that at church, but we don’t necessarily need God for that.**

- Appeasement – we gather together to tick off enough boxes to make it right. Demonstrate contrition. Make things right. We do not need God for this. You don’t even need a Bible. Just go to a person to tell you what to do.
- Manipulation does not need truth or connection to faith. Just motions and emotions. We don’t need theology. We don’t need doctrine. We don’t need sound words or a pattern of teaching.
- Catharsis – I had a hard week and I need encouragement. I need to feel better. Self-help. We do not need to hear about sin. That’s not encouraging. I need 3 ways to a happy life and 5 ways to improve my marriage. We need useful stuff, not spiritual stuff. Make my life better.

**We must worship in spirit and in truth** – and worship is not a time of music on Sundays, but is a part of everything we do, at all times.