

True 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, worshiping God in the unity of faith at all times

The Woman at the Well

John 4:19-20 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

- This is Old Testament thinking. Worship was based on location.
- God must be worshipped at the place where He is. He is confined.
- He is difficult to get to. Inaccessible by most.

But Jesus is transitioning people from law to grace:

- **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. ²⁴ **God *is* Spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- Jesus takes it from a physical location to a Spiritual state.
- How do we worship in spirit and in truth?

We must worship Him in Spirit

- Because He is spirit, We must worship Him in spirit.
- We are a triune being – Body, soul, and spirit.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Our Body is how we relate to our physical world. 5 senses.
- Our Soul is how we relate to each other – our personality, thinking, emotions.
- Our spirit is how we relate to God
- It is possible to engage in acts of worship that are not truly worship because they do not come from the spirit.
- Worship from the body – acts. Raising hands, kneeling, clapping. Are we doing these because we are compelled to, or just to do them because we believe that's right?
 - Church that choreographed their worship
- Worship from the soul – much more deceptive.
 - Emotionalism
 - Mentally going through the checkboxes
 - Knowing what to say or what to sing.
 - Danger of doing things from rote.
- When we worship from the body or soul we tend to fall into the trap of making worship about ourselves
 - I only worship when I feel it
 - I didn't like the song selection so I couldn't worship
 - When they hit that key change I just felt the presence...
 - I'm here to worship because I need a breakthrough...
 - I fulfilled my obligation...
- We worship from our spirit
 - Our spirit is made alive and connected with the Holy Spirit
 - We must allow His spirit to worship Him through us
 - True spirit worship is surrendering our souls and our bodies to Him, and allowing them to respond to what God is doing.
 - Maybe we do kneel, maybe we do feel His presence at that key change, but not because we are trying to, but because we are truly worshipping.

- We need to understand our identity. That we are worshipping from a place of righteousness and perfection, because that is who we are in Christ.
- Understanding that we are children of God, under His covenant.
- Worship should come as a natural response to what God has done, what He is doing, what His promises are, and simply who He is.
- There is nothing of self in worship.

We must worship Him in truth

- This means no false worshiping.
- True worship that comes from our spirit, we mean it with all of our heart.
 - **Mark 7:6** He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: '*This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.*'"
- We worship Him because He is worthy of worship
- Our worship must be informed by His Word.
- The more intimate your relationship, the deeper your worship. We cannot worship a God we do not know.

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. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. ²⁸ Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.
 - We can worship in Spirit because He put His Spirit within us.

That is worship in Spirit. What about worship in truth?

- **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." ²⁰ Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.
 - The blood of Christ is how we enter into the new covenant.

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

Worshipping in truth is worshiping God for who He truly is, what He has actually done, and the truth of the Gospel in our lives. Worship must be grounded in reality.

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, ¹⁰ 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, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²² 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. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.

In the 3 false models (Appeasement, Manipulation and Catharsis) – there is no real communion.

- Contemporaneity – What's newest is best = wrong thinking

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.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

- When we worship according to our spirit, united with Him, and we worship Him for who He truly is, what He has done... Then whatever we are doing is worshiping Him.
- We can worship with our voices, our work, our money, our time – any and everything can be holy worship when done in Spirit and Truth.