

# Music and the Bible

## Biblical Worship

### Introduction

- There is nothing in modern Christianity so fundamental yet so misunderstood as the subject of worship.
- The idea and imagery of worship has been rewritten over the past century.

### Definitions of Worship

- John MacArthur – “Worship is our innermost being responding with praise for all that God is, through our attitudes, action, thoughts, and words, based on the truth of God as He has revealed Himself.”
- John Frame – “Worship is the work of acknowledging the greatness of our covenant Lord.”
- Warren Wiersbe – “Worship is the believers’ response of all that they are – mind, emotions, will, and body – to what God is and says and does.”
- Charles Ryrie – “The worship of the church, then, consists of individual, corporate, public, and private service for the Lord which is generated by a reverence for a submission to Him who is totally worthy.”
- Scott Aniol – “Worship is a spiritual response to God as a result of understanding biblical truth about God.”

### Biblical Etymology

- Our English word *worship* traces back to Anglo-Saxon origins around A.D. 1300 meaning “condition of being worthy”; *worth* (“value, honor”) + *ship* (“quality, condition”), or *worthiness*.
- The primary Hebrew word for worship is *shachah* (Strong’s H7812), meaning “to bow down, to prostrate oneself, to worship, to perform obeisance.”
  - It appears 193x, about half meaning to worship God and half meaning to bow in honor before something/someone.
- The primary Greek word for worship is *proskeneo* (Strong’s G4352) meaning “to kneel or prostrate in homage or obeisance”.
  - It is believed that the origin of this word could involve kissing the hand (or a dog licking a hand); *pros* (“towards”) + *kuneo* (“to kiss”)
  - It appears 60x, usually in a religious sense but it can be used in a secular fashion as saluting or respecting someone of greater rank or power.
- From these origins, we can safely say that the idea of worship is humbling oneself in reverence to a God that is worthy of such regard.

## The Elements of Worship

- It is the true mark of a believer – Philippians 3:3
- It is not optional for a believer
- It is not an accident – Genesis 22:5, Job 1:20
- It humbles the worshipper – Psalm 95:6, Job 1:20
- It honors its object – Psalm 99:5, Job 1:21
- It is a response to God's revealed truth – Psalm 99:1-5
  - This is important: We worship because God *has* revealed, not so that God *will* reveal.
- It is *the* proper response to God – Psalm 100
- It can take many forms, such as thanks, praise, exultation, adoration, brokenness, contrition, grief, fear, awe, gratitude, joy, or hope.
- It begins with the revelation found in God's Word – II Timothy 4:2
- It should edify the body of believers – Ephesians 4:12
- It should honor the Lord – Hebrews 12:28
- It should not glorify, uplift, or empower, or emphasize our sinful flesh – Philippians 3:3
- It is three-dimensional:
  - An outward dimension – our actions towards others or visible to them
  - An inward dimension – our internal will, beliefs, motivations
  - An upward dimension – all to the glory of God – Hebrews 13:15-16