

Elements of Worship

- This lesson is an overview of the elements that make up Biblical worship.

Revelation

- Worship begins with God. How do we know God? Because He has revealed Himself to us.
- We worship God because of the *general revelation* of Himself in nature (Psalm 19:1), history (Job 12:23), and human conscience (Romans 2:14-15).
- We worship God because of the *special revelation* of Himself in miracles (Exodus 15:2-5), prophecy (II Chronicles 6:4-6), Christ (Philippians 2:5-11) and Scripture (Psalm 33:1-6).

Understanding

- Understanding is vital. God can reveal Himself to us and yet we will not comprehend it. (Examples: I Samuel 3:4-7, Daniel 3:25)
- This is the importance of worshipping Him in *spirit* and in *truth*.

Response

- Biblical worship is clearly a response to the revelation of God. We cannot worship that which we do not know (Romans 10:14).
- Note – Charismatic worship has this backwards. They teach that God responds to our worship and then reveals Himself via His presence.

Purpose

- Worship is not an accident. Worship must consciously come from the heart, or it is not worship.
- We see this in action in Job 1:20 - "Then Job arose [a purposeful act], and rent his mantle [a purposeful act], and shaved his head [a purposeful act] and fell down upon the ground [a purposeful act], and worshipped [a purposeful act]," (Job 1:20)

Humility

- The act of worship begins with bowing. We must humble ourselves before God.
- If we do not humble ourselves as we worship, then we are stealing the glory from God that is rightfully his.

- We see this in Job 1:20 - “Then Job arose, and rent his mantle [act of mourning/humility], and shaved his head [act of mourning/humility]and fell down upon the ground [act of humility], and worshipped,”
- Bowing and worship are connected throughout the Scriptures – Genesis 24:52, Exodus 4:31, Joshua 5:14, II Chronicles 20:18, Psalm 95:6

Honor

- Worship must have an object. When we worship, we are honoring or glorifying God. We are magnifying Him and not ourselves.
- We see this in Job 1:21 – “And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD [the object of worship].”
- There is *progression*: we purposefully worship, we purposefully humble ourselves, and we purposefully honor our God.
- There is *order*: we purpose, we minimize ourselves, we maximize God.

Propriety

- To worship God is the proper response to Who He is and what He does. It is proper that we humble ourselves before Him and exalt His glorious name. To not worship Him is a sin as it denies Him the glory that is due Him.
- Psalm 100 illustrates this:
 - We have acts of worship - “make a joyful noise” (vs.1), “serve the Lord” (vs. 2), “come before His presence” (vs. 2), “enter into His gates with thanksgiving” (vs. 4), enter “into his courts with praise” (vs. 4), “be thankful unto Him” (vs. 4), and “bless His name” (vs. 4).
 - These acts are shown as the proper response to truth - “He is God” (vs. 3), He “hath made us” (vs. 3), “we are His people” (vs. 3), we are “the sheep of His pasture” (vs. 3), He “is good” (vs. 5), “His mercy is everlasting” (vs. 5), and “His truth endureth to all generations” (vs. 5).

Versatility

- Worship goes far beyond music or even church services.
- If we are doing all to the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31) and offering ourselves as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1), then our lives become a constant stream of worship.