

Worship – God’s Way!

What is Worship?

- Someone has noted that when we pray, we are preoccupied with our needs.
- When we praise and give thanks, we are preoccupied with our blessings.
- But when we worship, we are preoccupied only with God!

Eddie Hyatt

When people give a sincere compliment to a worship leader or speaker and say they really enjoyed the message or a song or worship set; they are responding to experiencing God and they don’t know how to verbalize that.

They think it’s the type of music, or style or the message that they like.

We do people a great disservice by allowing them to think that worship is a type of music:

- If worship is only music, then it can be categorized into styles.
- It can be packaged, produced, and marketed.
- It can be consumed as a commodity on the market appealing to certain tastes.
- If worship is only music, we can judge it as pleasing and appropriate or displeasing and inappropriate.
- We can decide whether we will engage in worship based on our own preferences and moods.
- “If a song does not express my preferred style or reflect my current mood, I do not have to like it or participate in it.”

This presents a problem:

- People can become **spectators – consumers** of worship.
- Worship becomes a thing for people and not for God.
- **If worship is for people, then people are the objects of worship – if people are the object of worship – then we are gods unto ourselves.**

We will never prosper by taking for ourselves what was meant for God.

Worship is for God – when I become its judge, I put myself in the place of God – I compete with God.

This is the same mistake Lucifer made and lost his place in heaven.

May we realize and know that worship is for God and not people.

The Musical Vehicle-

Music is a wonderful tool for worship that engages the trinity of our created beings – Body – Soul and Spirit.

God is a Triune Being and can only be worshipped by other triune beings.

When the trinity of man worships the Trinity of God, a relational connection – communion is achieved and this cannot be duplicated by any other creature.

Matt. 12:30 the greatest commandment is: “To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.”

- To do this, we must incorporate the triunity of our mind, soul, emotions when we worship God.
- We worship with all three parts of ourselves.
- If one part is disengaged – we are not truly worshipping.
- If my mouth is singing worship but my heart is not engaged, that’s not worship.
- If I am singing God a song of love but my spirit is dead in unbelief, that’s not worship.
- Music helps us to engage our triunity with the trinity of God – to love Him with every redeemed part of ourselves – Body – Soul – Spirit.

Music moves our **bodies – we move, sway & dance.**

It quickens the rhythms of our hearts.

We were created with musical instruments in our bodies:

- Our hands clap. Our feet stomp or pat as percussion instruments.
- Our vocal chords work as both string and wind instruments.
- We are living instruments – our bodies are made to be musical.

Music has the power to move our **souls:**

- We hear music that makes us weep, laugh, makes our hearts glad.
- It effects all of our mind – will – emotions.

Music also moves our spirits:

- When Saul was tormented by evil spirits, David played the harp and it soothed his spirit. 1Sam. 16:23.
- When Joram and Jehoshaphat asked Elisha to give them a word from the Lord; Elisha asked for a musician – 2Kings 3:15 “When the musician played, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha and he prophesied.”
- Our spirits were created to respond to music.
- **But is music itself worship?** – NO, it’s only a tool or vehicle.

Worship: There is a need to define what true worship is.

Worship is a compressed form of the Old English word **Worship** literally meaning to “give something of worth – to demonstratively attribute value, especially to a deity or god.”

- We **Worship** God by communicating and demonstrating His value.
- Demonstrating value cost us something.
- To value something, we have to assign a price/cost to it.
- That is why worship is so often associated with **sacrifice.**
- We make sacrifice only for something or someone that is important to us – something valuable.
- Heb. 13:15- “By Him therefore let us offer the **sacrifice of praise** to God **continually**, that is, **the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.**”

Worship is SACRIFICE:

- Except for the Lord Himself sacrificing the animal to make Adam and Eve coats to cover their nakedness; the first mention of sacrifice in the Bible begins with Abraham.
- Gen. 22:5 Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there and worship and then return to you.”
- Abraham was asked by God to bring his son and offer him as a sacrifice to God.
- **Worship:** What he really means is – “**I will offer God the greatest sacrifice I have to offer, the most valuable thing in my world, my son, because God is worth even more to me.**”
- That is what the word **WORTHY** means = **God is worth it.**

So worship – valuing God – must cost the worshipper something!

- Worship is essentially sacrifice – it involves giving on many levels.
- We sacrifice when we offer God our time – our money – our songs of praise when our circumstances don't feel or look praiseworthy – an attitude of gratitude when we feel like grumbling.
- A sacrifice is often uncomfortable and always has a price to it.

We worship a lot of things:

- Our priorities demonstrate where we truly place value.
- It is said you can determine our values by looking at our calendars and our checkbooks or financial transactions.
- Because “Time is money” it is easy to see what we Worship most by looking at where we invest our currency.

If worship is ascribing worth to God – then the price of or our worship shows God and the world how much we value Him.

III: **The Ring**

Women understand this better than men do – the example is the engagement ring.

- A woman announces to her friends she is engaged by entering a room with a sideways glance and holding out her left hand so all can notice.
- She doesn't email – tweet – Facebook – instant message. She really doesn't say anything at all.
- Her friends recognizing the posture, respond with a universal cue by gaping, oohing & ahing with a hand over the mouth.
- They gather about with outstretched hands to touch and admire **The RING!**
- Do they ask who he is, does he have a job, is he hunchbacked, have three eyes? NO
- All they care about is the glittery hunk of carbon on her finger.
- **THE RING TELLS THEM ALL THEY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE GUY-**
- They don't care about the groom until they see how much he values their friend.
- They have one and only one question in their minds: **“How much are you worth to him? How much does he value you by the value of the ring?”**
- They want to know if she is valuable enough to him for him to eat nothing but ramen noodles for six months, ride a bicycle to work, rewear three day old laundry, scrimping and saving and sacrificing in order to buy that ring that somehow reflects how empty life would be without the woman he loves.
- Does she mean more to him than life itself?

- How valuable is she to him? How much does he think she is worth/

In their economy, the price of the ring shows the world how much he values her.

Here we are, the Bride of Christ -

- Unlovable – Unfaithful – Adulterous – Fickle.
- Heaven and Hell are stupefied that He could love us like He does.
- The lost of the word cannot believe it's true.
- How could anyone love such a bride?
- How could the Perfect Prince of Peace – the Glorious One – Holy – Faithful – Powerful – Righteousness – Full of Beauty and Light choose such an unlovely – wayward woman?
- The angels are mystified – Hell cannot not comprehend it.
- Who could love such a people like the church?
- **Only one thing will silence their doubt.**

Show them the RING!

The only way for God to silence the skeptics was to demonstrate His love, to prove how much we are worth to Him.

Rom. 5:8 “God demonstrates His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

What is the Cross?

Its' God's engagement ring offered to every person.

- It's the ring bought at the price of God's own Son to woo the heart of the bride away from all her other lovers to prove once and for all that He loves us more than life itself.

The gospel of Christ's love for us is our engagement ring – and it says everything the world needs to know about the Groom who is pursuing us.

If the Cross proves how much we are worth to God – our worship should prove how much God is worth to us.

We are surrounded by a world that thinks we are delusional.

Our engagement to Him is a myth in their eyes.

Question: Does the way you live your life prove their doubts.

The church doesn't act like we are engaged to the King of kings.

We don't act betrothed –

We act like we are single and available for whoever and whatever comes along. – like we are playing the field.

We sow our affections like we are still shopping and have not found our true love.

- 1. Heaven is watching us and wondering- Do they really love the God of all the universe?**
- 2. He is watching and wondering – Do they really believe? Do they really love Me?**
- 3. The world is watching and wondering – Do they really believe what they say they believe? Does their God really exist? Is He really lovable?**
 - Does He have the power to save and transform?**
 - Is He worth following and is HE worth living for?**

What are they really asking: “Show us the RING”

Church – Worshiper – Christian — pastors.

Your worship communicates more to the world than you know!

Our worship shows the world how valuable our God is.

Worship demonstrates that we have a Savior worth loving, worth living for, and [if need be] worth dying for.

The world is looking for us to lead them to worship Jesus by demonstrating that He is worthy of our Worthship.