

A JOURNEY IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

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Adventure in Worship Series

When you gather with other believers for a period of worship, what are your expectations?

What do you expect to take place during your service?

Has anyone ever offered to help you understand the actions and interactions of Christian worship? Did you know that there are over 3000 years of biblical commentary on public worship? Are you aware that biblical worship is both action and interaction?

During the next few articles I'd like for us to discover some of the elements that should comprise public worship. Attitudes and actions in worship, as well as responses and results to worship, are just some of the insights that may be helpful to you as you move forward on your worship journey.

Here are some of the topics we'll be examining:

1. God's View Point
2. The Importance of Fundamentals
3. English Synonyms
4. OT/NT Descriptions
5. The Historical Precedence for Expressive Worship
6. The Litmus Test for True Worship

The Power of Perspective:

A pastor related the following story...

Two young boys were walking down the street in downtown Minneapolis when out from an alley ran a Rottweiler and attacked one of the boys. The other boy grabbed a 2x4 lying near the alley and dispatched the dog, saving his friend's life. A reporter from the Minneapolis Star Tribune got wind of the story and requested an interview from the first boy. He ran the story on the front page and the headline read: "Vikings Fan Bravely Saves Friend's Life From A Rabid Rottweiler." The boy called the reporter and said, "I'm not a Vikings fan." The reporter said, "Well, I just thought that since you are from Minneapolis that you would be a Vikings fan. I'll correct the mistake in tomorrow's paper." The next day the front page read: "Timberwolves Fan Bravely Saves Friend's Life From Rabid Rottweiler." The boy again called the reporter and said, "I'm not a Timberwolves fan either!" The reporter asked, "Are you a fan of sports at all?" The boy said, "Yes. In fact, I am a die-hard Green Bay Packer's fan." The reporter agreed to note the change in the next day's newspaper. The next day the front page read: "Redneck Idiot Kills Faithful Family Pet!" That was the reporter's viewpoint.

GOD'S VIEWPOINT:

Well, in the same way, everyone's take or viewpoint on worship is different. Ask a Pentecostal; an Anglican; an Episcopalian; a Catholic; a Wesleyan; a Methodist; ask younger person; or an older person and you will probably come away with as many different views as the number of people you ask about worship.

However, the point I want to make this is that your take or my take on worship is relatively irrelevant. **It is only God's viewpoint on worship that really matters.**

Isa 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and measured out the heavens with a span? And who has shut up the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Isa 40:13 Who has directed the Spirit of Jehovah, and what man taught Him counsel?

Isa 40:14 With whom did He take counsel, and *who* instructed Him and taught Him in the path of judgment, and taught Him knowledge, and made known the way of understanding to Him?

Isa 40:15 Behold, the nations *are* like a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the scales; behold, He takes up the coastlands as a very little thing.

This same God, having need of nothing, yet He invites us to share in His wonder and His purposes. This holy God, self-existent one, loves us and deeply enjoys fellowship with us.

This understanding is the beginning of the worship journey.

More later,

Karry