

The Attitude and Actions of Worship

In our last study I offered four synonyms for worship: Veneration, Adoration, Reverence and Love. These are key words that have helped to guide my "worship leading" for many years by helping me choose appropriate songs for the "music period" of corporate worship.

In this study, I'd like for you to consider what the Christian life would look like if we were to do all we do for the greatness of God, for the love of God. Our worship focus seems to have become a bit distorted in these days of "worship music business, top-forty Christian Hit Parades, latest worship videos, worship as a church growth enhancer, and a myriad of other virtual worship vehicles".

If worship in the church is to recapture its organic nature, the church needs a reality check, a recalibration, we need realignment with our original point of reference.

The God-Head should be our "north star".

We are in need of maturity and the sagacity that should accompany it.

What am I saying, you might well ask?

I'm saying that we, the church, need to see Him! We need to see our God's majesty and immeasurable worth!

This is what heaven sees so clearly...His WORTHINESS:

Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy are you, Oh Lord, to receive..., Thou art worthy...Etc, Etc.

*It's time **the church** joined heaven and acted on the knowledge that "all things were created by Him and for Him and He is before all things and by His will they consist."*

The bride must receive and posture herself with the truth that **the GREAT Supper** that occurs at the convergence of time and eternity is not the "Marriage Supper of the Bride, but indeed **"The Marriage Supper of the Lamb."**

Armed with this information and transformation we may truly comprehend our inexpressible lack, our poverty, and our ineptitude without His presence. May we grasp the truth that He is immeasurably superior. He is our all in all! With this revelation, may we mature from the adolescent church, trying to coerce God into living for our benefit, and move toward being the adoring, worshiping church we are called to become.

In recognition of His supremacy, may we be provoked to **unqualified obedience, unreserved gratitude and unconditional worship.**

In worship, it is imperative that the maturing church learn to ask this defining question: "Who is this for?"

AW Tozer once wrote: "Nothing twists or deforms the soul more than a low or unworthy conception of God. From a failure to understand God comes a world of unhappiness among good Christian people."

When the church gathers for worship it is imperative that the church ask this defining question: "Who is this for?"

True worshipers have settled this question.

Gerrit Gustafson said "Our Lord gave His all! The only logical response is that I should do the same.

He did not reserve Himself on the cross and this should provoke me to unreserved devotion and obedience to Him.

He is worthy of unqualified obedience, unreserved worship and unconditional gratitude."

The occurrences in corporate or personal worship, i.e. music, prayer, teachings, preaching should first take us "vertical".

The Actions of Corporate Worship:

People are often confused about appropriate actions in corporate worship. How do we express VENERATION, LOVE, ADORATION and REVERENCE? This is a valid question.

We have over three thousand years of appropriate worship expressions.

Seven Words Translated Praise (OT Hebrew)

1. Ruah; Shout, split the ear, Joyful sound Ps.47:1
2. Todah: Extend the hands (Thank You) Ps. 50:23 Still used today in Israel.)
3. Yadah: Extend or through out the hands. Ps. 86:12
4. Zamar: (Sing) Pluck/Strike with the fingers Ps. 30:4
5. Shacah/Barach: To bow down, prostrate Ps. 29:2, Gen 22:5
6. Hallal: To be clear, shine, clamorously foolish. Ps 150:1
7. Tehillah: Fresh, new thing. Ps 40:3

The Holy Scriptures consider these actions (Shouting, Extending hands, Playing Instruments, Bowing, Celebrating and Singing Spontaneously) to be appropriate when publicly and privately worshipping the King.

Let's look a little deeper into Tehillah.

The scripture says:

"He has put a new song (**Tehillah**) in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many shall see and shall fear and shall trust in the Lord."

Here, the word praise is once again **Tehillah**.

Much congregational music today follows this format: Reading words on screen, singing some writer's lyrics, while being accompanied by background music...The Church=Praise and Worship.

These trappings of worship are OK, but I believe God wants to hear the heart of His congregation. There is a unique sound that can emanate from the people of God. This sound is singular to the body of Christ and, I believe, exquisite in the ear of the Father. "The Lord has put a new song in my mouth..." not yesterday's recorded, polished, slick, homogenized, pasteurized, top forty Christian hit (nice in it's place); but a spontaneous offering of thanksgiving and joy, declaring His attributes, His greatness, His worthiness. The practice of Tehillah, when facilitated appropriately, may be a divine moment allowing the congregants to participate by expressing their **fresh, unrehearsed, individual, unique songs of praise to God.**

God likes it...Do It. We should make it our business to find out what our God likes and Do It!

Such a moment should be entered into with great reverence (Deep Affection, Profound Respect).

It's obvious from the biblical record that God values expressive, heart-felt worship. I pray that you are inspired and equipped to offer your best to the King.

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