

Why Worship...Alone or Together?

Def. of Worship (of God) – Root word is “worthy-ship.”

As a Verb – The act of honoring or revering, to show extravagant admiration of or devotion to God.

1. Five observations about Worship

Observation # 1: Worship is commanded in scripture:

"You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. Deuteronomy 6:13 (NASB)

Why do you think He commands worship? (This is important!)

Observation # 2: Worship can be a heartfelt response but is also a discipline to be cultivated. (Like telling the people close to you that you love them.)

Observation # 3: Worship in scripture is both personal and corporate. (Honoring the Sabbath was for the whole nation.)

Observation # 4: True, heartfelt worship is apparently a difficult thing for many people to make a part of their life.

2. How do we cultivate heartfelt worship?

Genuine worship as modeled in Nehemiah 8

1. Assembling together with other believers. (vs. 1-2)
Matt 19:19-20 “Where two or three are gathered...”
2. Affirming the authority of God’s Word. (vs. 3-8)
Hearing and heeding God’s Word unto repentance!
3. Adoring the God of grace. (vs. 9-12)
True joy is experienced in God’s grace after repentance!
4. Honoring God by surrendering all to Him. (Vs. 13-18)
The people returned to a lifestyle of obeying God’s ways

3. Understanding the relationship between truth and “true” worship that God says He is seeking.

An hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. - Jesus John 4: 23 (NASB)

*Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." The woman *said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." He *said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus *said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." The woman *said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus *said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers** will worship the Father in **spirit and truth**; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in **spirit and truth.**" The woman *said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." Jesus *said to her, "I who speak to you am He." John 4:13-26 (NASB)*

A. Jesus knew this woman’s life was hiding an area where she was consciously and repeatedly out of step with God’s will.

B. Jesus gently brings out this sin and reveals her dishonesty.

C. Jesus introduces the way worship will happen under the New Covenant that He is going to establish between His Father and us!

Joyful worship starts with honesty/repentance toward God!
