

Worship – Read the Fine Print

Worship defined: (Webster)

- ✦ Excellence of character; dignity; worth; worthiness.
- ✦ The act of paying divine honors to the Supreme Being; religious reverence and homage; adoration, or acts of reverence, paid to God, or a being viewed as God.

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Worship defined: (Eerdman's Bible Dictionary)

- To pay homage to, or literally, to ascribe worth to some person or thing. Hence worship embraces the whole of the reverent life, including piety and liturgy.

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We are called to worship God according to his terms, not ours

2 Types of Worship:

1. *Gathered Worship* - where God's people gather in community to worship him together
2. *Scattered Worship* - where God's people respond to God's will for how we live our lives when we are going about our daily business

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What is Worship?

- Worship always begins with God - he is the one who initiates
- Worship, then, is our response to God's on-going, initiating, and active presence in the lives of his people and the world
- We respond in 2 ways to God's initiation:
 1. Worship/obedience/thankfulness/praise
 2. Rebellion

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Exodus 5:1-5

- 1 Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert.' " 2 Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go."
- 3 Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword."

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Exodus 5:1-5

4 But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!" 5 Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working."

Exodus 8:1; 8:20; 9:1; 9:13; 10:3

This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.

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Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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Amos 5:21-24

21 "I hate, I despise your religious feasts;
I cannot stand your assemblies.

22 Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.

23 Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.

24 But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

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