

OUT OF PRACTICE - *Worship*

July 31, 2022 *Psalm 95:1-9*

OPENING QUESTION

What does the word *worship* mean to you? How would a non-believer interpret the word *worship*? Would a non-believer ever use the word *worship* to describe the things he's passionate about? Would you?

WORSHIP IS NOT ABOUT ME, BUT US - *Psalm 95:1-2*

- The definition of *worship* is ascribing ultimate value to an object or person and engaging your mind, your heart, and your will, the whole being, as you do it.
- *Personal* daily worship is important, but *corporate* worship is equally important and what we were created for.
- If you have great personal worship but don't have corporate worship then you are missing out on how God created us to experience His presence *together* as a people, a family, all *nations*.
- We like to worship with people who like to worship the way we do, but this does not promote unity in the body of Christ.
- When we don't seek unity, we are seeking selfishness (John 17).

Does the definition of worship above match your definition of worship? How do you worship when you are alone? How do you worship corporately? How does worshipping corporately promote unity among believers?

WORSHIP IS NOT ABOUT ME, BUT ALL OF ME - *Psalm 95:6-9*

- Worship isn't worship unless it engages the whole person. In verses 1-2 we're told to worship joyfully with our emotions.
- In verses 6-9 you are commanded to worship submissively with your will, and let God change the way you live.
- Then we listen to God's voice, emphasizing understanding, the mind, listening and taking in a message, understanding it and not ignoring it.
- So there's your mind, your will, and your emotions. Every single part of your person has to be engaged to truly worship.
- If they're not all together, you're not worshipping, because worship takes your belief and drives it down into your heart so it can transform you.

What are the diverse areas of your life: Your job, career, passions, nature, music, poetry, sports, outdoors, etc. How do you worship God in these domains of your life? Is God sovereign over all domains, that is, where you work, live, and play?

WORSHIP IS NOT ABOUT ME, BUT GOD - *Psalm 95:3-5*

- What triggers all this joy? What triggers all this singing? "For the Lord is the Great God."
- Thinking about the excellencies of God until your whole life explodes with joy and your life changes....that's worship!
- The first two commandments (Exodus 20:1-4) are completely about worship.
- We all worship something or Someone.
- We are created to worship. Not worshipping is not an option. The question is, who will you worship?
- The word *worship* comes from the Old English phrase *worth-shape*, to be shaped by the worth of something. That's what worship is. It's to look at something and say, "That is so valuable that it's so important, if I have that, then I'm worth something."
- "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's treasured possession." (1 Peter 2:9) Jesus Christ looks at you and loves you and adores you and adds up your worth and calculates it and is so moved by love of you He was willing to come and give everything and still think it was worth it. In other words, he's treasuring us.

Read Exodus 20:1-4. Are these verses about worship? Why? Is there anything in your life that you have placed above God? How does God Himself view worship from you? Is He angry and demanding, or a gentle Father?



CLOSING QUESTIONS

Hear

What are some things that stood out to you in this week's sermon and Scriptures?

Obey

Set aside time to worship God this week - in your work, your family relationships, music, nature - wherever you can move closer to God. Take time to pray through Psalm 95 and any other passage on worship. "What shall I return to the LORD for His goodness to me?" (Psalm 116:12). He is worthy!

Pray

Pray that God will remind you of His faithfulness and love toward you. Pray, meditate, and worship Him for all He is and has done for you.