

Sacred Rhythms

Week 4 - Confidently Worship God in Spirit and Truth

John 4:23-24

Singing is a **BIBLICAL**, **HEAVENLY**, and also **PRACTICAL** form of worship.

- Old Testament (Psalms 105:2) and New Testament (Ephesians 5:19) describe and command singing as an act of worship to God
- Singing is an aspect of Heavenly culture experienced here on Earth
- Singing has scientific and historic significance which is relevant to our worship today

The Definition of Worship

- Derived from Old English 'weorthscipe' which means "to acknowledge worthiness"
- Singing is not the only way we worship God

Jesus reveals God is looking for **TRUE** worshippers that worship in **SPIRIT** and **TRUTH**. (v.23-24).

1. Worship **REMEMBERS** God

- Acts of worship are done in remembrance of God's great works (Lev. 23:4-8, Ps. 77:11, Mark 14:25).
- Jesus died for **ALL** people; therefore, worship will be **CULTURAL** and **GENERATIONAL** (Rev. 7:9).

2. Our Worship Must be **RIGHT** - "in Spirit and Truth" (John 4:24, 1 Cor. 14:15).

We Must Worship God in **TRUTH** (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

- Worship **DECLARES** what is true about who God is, what He has done, is doing, and said He will do.
- We must beware of songs, teachings and traditions that do not reflect the truth about God established in **SCRIPTURE**.

We Must Worship God in **SPIRIT** (1 Cor. 14:15)

- Singing praise to God is a spiritual activity.
- Worshipping in truth **INVITES** God's Spirit into our worship.

3. Our Worship Must be **REAL** (Amos 5:21-24)

- God despises **FAKE** worship
- We cannot expect God to receive our worship if our lives are sinful and unrepentant
- We must **RECONCILE** with God and others before we worship (Matt 5:24)

Our Worship Should Reflect **RELATIONSHIP** with God (Romans 12:1)

- Worship is anything we do that stems from our **DEVOTION** to God
- A **LIFESTYLE** of worship brings our praise directly to God's ears

True Worship is anything we do that **REMEMBERS** God in a way that is **RIGHT**, **REAL** and stems from a **RELATIONSHIP** with Him.

Worship Pastor Brian Altizer

Auburn Grace Community Church – June 9th 2024

Life Group Discussion Questions – June 9, 2024

John 4:23-24 *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."*

DISCOVER

1. Based on your knowledge of scripture, how would you define worship? How closely aligned with that definition are churches today? As a group, compile a list of various ways to worship. How do you think people who are unchurched would view worship in our church? Is worship something that is part of our design? Why have people throughout history worshiped created things instead of the Living God? An unbeliever says to you, "I don't worship people or things!" How might you respond?
2. Why is worship so important in our spiritual life? Is worship an option or a command? Why would an all-powerful God want our worship? How is singing in church a preview of heaven? What happens to you when you worship? Why might worshiping with others be more impactful than worshipping alone?
3. What are some worship experiences that have been memorable in your life? How does remembering God play into worship? What worship songs have sometimes been stuck in your head? Outside of church, when are you most likely to think of worship songs?
4. What role does culture play in worship? Is it appropriate for different cultures to worship in different ways? How might worship styles of other cultures be an inspiration to us?

EXPLORE

1. Read John 4:23-24. What does it mean to worship God in spirit and truth? What are some examples where worship is not done in spirit and truth? How should the Holy Spirit be involved in worship? How should the Spirit and understanding go hand in hand during worship?
2. Read Amos 5:21-24. Why was God rejecting the praises, in this instance, of the house of Israel? How do we prepare ourselves to give praise so that He is pleased?
3. What holds us back from true worship? Read Matthew 5:23-24. How do you see these verses applying to worship? Do you think God might have, on occasion, rejected your worship because of sin or disagreement with others? Give a specific example or describe a situation.

EXPERIENCE

1. What attributes does God have that are worthy of worship and praise? How should we proclaim what God has done and is doing? How do we declare who God is? Do you see such declarations in your worship?
2. How can I be the kind of worshiper that God expects? What are God's expectations in worship? Should we feel a deep connection with God during worship? Explain your experience. Is it possible to worship God without having a relationship with Him? Explain. What can we do in those situations where we don't feel connected with God but we are in a worship setting?
3. What do you believe worship will be like in heaven? If you don't find yourself deeply involved in worship, then what do you expect to be different in heaven?

PRAY

Pray...God, You are worthy to be praised. Nothing and no one else is worthy of worship. You alone are perfect and eternally loving of Your created ones. We humbly approach You to give You praise for who You are and all that You have done and will do for us. In Jesus name, amen.