

CALL to PRAYER - Pray that He would increase and we would decrease – John 3:30

Intro – For the next couple of weeks we are going to look at a term that is often misunderstood and misdefined. It is often used in Christian circles, but I think it is often misused. We are in a series called “*Definitions*” - attempting to clear up some common terms that have come to have cloudy meanings. Our word today is “WORSHIP.” We hear and use this word quite frequently, but its common usage is foreign to Bible usage. Usually when people talk about worship, they mean music. “*I loved the worship at church today...*” But music is not worship. Those two are not synonymous terms. They are two good things but two different things. Music can be used to incite worship, but music is not worship. We get the definition of “*worship*” wrong because we get the *elevation* wrong. Music is a powerful medium to get you up, but worship is what brings you down. Praise music – stand up with hands up. Worship brings you face down. So today I hope we leave here with a clearer definition of *worship* – next week will examine our worship.

Nehemiah 8:1-6 - Definitions - 4 - Worship

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

- Worship is a posture or demeanor of deference.
 - To bow to prostrate to do homage to give reverence
To kiss (Picture bowing and kissing the ring of a sovereign) Ps. 2:10-12
 - Psalm 95:6 Nehemiah 8:6
 - “*Honor paid to a superior being.*” J. MacArthur
 - God is the proper object of worship, but that honor is often given elsewhere.
 - Rev. 22:8-9 Acts 10:25-26
 - Some solicit worship that don’t deserve it - Matt. 4:8-10
 - Worship is the act of ascribing worthiness. “*You are worthy*” (worth-ship)
 - In sports – acknowledge greatness/great play (bow down) “*We are not worthy*”
 - Self-worship = “*I am worthy*” (on a pedestal)
- True worship has nothing to do with feeling good about yourself. (unless it is self-worship)
 - Job 1:20-21 Job worshipped on his worse day
 - There was no singing; only crying (Job was weeping & worshipping)
- Real worship is that which brings us down before Him who is highly exalted
 - The physical posture pictures the worshipful demeanor - bowing low/face down
 - Praise – stand up...hands up...lift up voices
 - Worship = bow down...face down...being low (2 Chron. 20:18-19)
 - The difference between praise & worship is the difference between up & down.
 - We get the definition wrong because we get the elevation is wrong.
 - We really don’t worship God very often. We think too highly of ourselves to get down that low
 - True worship is that which magnifies God and minimizes man - John 3:30
 - Worship esteems God highly and esteems man lowly

- Worship is the proper response to who God is (Greg Scheer)
 - Man should be prostrated before God when he is confronted with God.
- We don't worship unless we understand and acknowledge something about God
 - Exodus 4:31 faith in God and His provision produced worship
 - Exodus 12:27 redemption of Israel & judgment on Egypt
 - Ex. 34:5-8 God's glory and His perfections
 - 2 Chron. 7:3 God's glory, goodness and lovingkindness
 - Rev. 4:9-11 God's sovereignty & eternity. God's will as Creator
 - Rev. 5:11-14 Jesus' work of redemption and sovereign rule
 - Rev. 7:10-12 Salvation, sovereignty & glory
 - Matt. 14:32-33 Jesus' Deity and command of creation
 - The truth of who God is produces true worship.
 - The "*God-ness*" of God should weigh us down in a demeanor of worship.
 - The facts of our faith force us low and produce a posture of worship.
- Music can accompany or encourage worship....but music is not worship
 - Music is used in true worship - 2 Chron. 29:25-30 (28-30)
 - Music is used in false worship - Daniel 3:5-6
 - Music is a powerful medium...but music is not worship
 - If it exalts God and brings man low – it can aid in true worship
 - If it elevates man....it promotes false worship or self-worship
 - Music can make you feel good. uplifting music
 - Does it make you feel good about God or man? Who does it uplift?

WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF YOUR WORSHIP?

- Everybody worships
 - The question is not, "*Do you worship?*" but, "*Who do you worship?*"
 - What, or who, is the object of your worship? Who or what is worthy?
- Worship can be seen.
 - Worship is seen by how we live our lives
 - We **SACRIFICE, SERVE & SUBMIT** to that which we worship
 - Matt. 2:11
 - 2 Kings 17:36
 - Rom. 12:1 (NIV)
 - Many references to worshipping & serving other gods
 - Worshipping and serving go together. We serve the one we worship
- Who do you worship? What is WORTHY of your sacrifice, submission and service?
 - Who do you sacrifice for? Who do you submit to? Who do you serve?
 - What do you bow before? To what or who do you say, "*You are worthy...*"
- Sad to say but the one I worship the most is myself
 - TV show – "...nothing I wouldn't sacrifice for the ones I love...it is just that I am the only one I love"
- The great I AM is the One we should love & worship. He alone is worthy