

Date : 27 April 2025
Topic : Worship and the Family
Key Passage : *Matthew 4: 7-10*
Key Verse : *Jesus said...away from Me, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only. Matthew 4:10*

Introduction

Worship is acknowledging God's nature, giving Him reverence for His attributes, appreciating Him, His ways and word. It is the genuine outflow of the heart in praise, a declaration of absolute dependence upon Him. It is adoration expressed in service and obedience. It is shaping of the heart to serve God and to submit to His will. God's plan is for His people in the church to model worship to the world at large. Mankind has an innate desire to worship. The question is just who?

God's instruction to His people at Mt. Sinai spells out the details *Exodus 20*. There the Israelites were told of their covenant with God and how they were to worship Him as given in the first four of the 10 Commandments. Worshipping other gods was forbidden as it violated their covenant with Him.

God's instructions at Mt. Sinai were repeated in *Deuteronomy*, especially in *Deuteronomy 12*. Again, it was to worship God's way and not to follow the worship of the pagan nations.

In *Matthew 4:10* Satan who desired worship, tried to entice the Lord, by offering the world in exchange. Our Lord quoted *Deuteronomy 6:13* ...

You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only... Worshipping anyone else is idolatry.

The only way to avoid idolatry is to focus our worship and service solely on God. This is true worship. False worshippers praise God with their lips but their hearts are far from Him. They say they worship God but they also have a shared affection for other gods. This is syncretism. Today we want to learn how to be true worshippers.

1. What is worship?

- Love

Worship is expressing our love for the Lord wholeheartedly.

...love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5

Our Lord Jesus reiterated *...If you love Me, keep My commandments...* *John 14:15, 21*

What is it to love? Defined in *1 Corinthians 13* as

- Action : in word and deed
- Reaction : not easily provoked, not puffed up
- Faithful : faithful and loyal

- Service

Worship is service rendered to God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, in times of prosperity *Deuteronomy 28:47*.

- Submission

Submission is worship, particularly in times of adversity, to express our love and trust in the Lord.

Job could not figure out why his health deteriorated or wealth depleted.

Yet he remained faithful to the Lord. Job turned to worship.

His worship prayer...

Naked I came...Naked shall I return... the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.

Blessed is the name of the Lord... Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Job 1:20-22

2. Why worship God only and no other?

- He is the Creator of all things and He is worthy
Worshipping God is the right order, the Creation order that puts Him above all.
He is our Designer, Maker and Provider of all we have and ever needed.
- He is the Lord who is worthy of all glory
...My (God) glory will I not give to another... Isaiah 42:8
...Worship the Lord your God... Matthew 4:10
- Giving worship to another created being (like Satan or the dead) would be a violation of covenantal relationship. It is a serious offence to God, bringing dire consequences, if I worshipped any object or person other than the triune God.
(Judges and Kings record God's wrath when Israel worshipped other gods).

3. How do we worship the Lord?

- Attributing all glory to Him: His glorious attributes, greatness, power, majesty.
- Appreciating the beauty of His holiness: His righteousness, purity, perfection.
1 Chronicles 29:10-18
- Based on revealed truth *John 4:24* (not human imagination, lies or false information).
- Offering sacrifices: Offering our bodies as a living sacrifice daily, which is our reasonable act of worship. *Romans 12:3*

a) With our hearts:

- Value God above all things
...love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and with all your strength (emotion, spirit) Deuteronomy 6:5.
 - Contrast with false worship.
...honour Me (Jesus) with their lips
...heart far from Me
...in vain they worship Me... Matthew 15:8, 9
- Worth ship (= worship)
Worship is displaying the worth of God.
It is common for Christians to love God, yet have other gods as well.
Such are not true worshippers. The love God expects is exclusive to Him alone.

b) External expressions of worship

- All our soul (mind and emotion)
Glory in knowing Him personally. *Jeremiah 9:24, 25*
- All our might (engaging our physical body)
 - Bowing *Psalms 95:6*
 - Kneeling
 - Raised hands
 - Dancing feet
- Voices (shouts of joy, acclamation)
 - What if we are shy and self-conscious?
 - Can we worship in our minds? (In heaven, worshippers fall at His feet *Revelation 7:11*).

- c) With the sacrifice of praise, sacrifice well pleasing to God.
- Continually (not intermittently) giving thanks to His name (He has 300 names).
(This is not the same as thanksgiving for His gifts).
Why does God call praise a sacrifice?
 - What about doing good and sharing with others *Hebrews 13:15,16*
- d) Where is the place of worship?
- ...Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, they are ever praising You. Psalm 84:4*
- One central place *Deuteronomy 12*
God wants all Israel to worship in one central place of His choice
(3 times per year. Long distances).
 - Not follow Canaanite way of worship
(they worshipped as they saw fit and careless about sacred gatherings).
 - Can I worship from home?
 - Inconvenient? The sick?
 - Why do we meet in churches?
 - Did Jesus attend Jewish synagogue every Sabbath?
 - Did believers in New Testament meet in churches?
 - Why observe covenant membership?
 - Our offerings
With the first fruits of our increase.
Acknowledging that all we have is from God alone.
Deuteronomy 26:10

Application

1. My purpose to come together in worship is to bring something of value to God ☐
(David refused to offer to God that which cost Him nothing).

or I come for a meaningful experience of God ☐
2. I come with others to give to God true worship because He seeks true worshippers. ☐

or I have my own worship preference. I must feel good and be uplifted. ☐
3. I always prepare by first offering myself before I make an offering. ☐

or I am always short in finances. Do I still worship Him? ☐