

"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)

Theme: In worship we have one glorious task – to bring honor and glory to God who has made us and redeemed us. It is our highest duty and our greatest privilege. In God-centered worship the Lord is exalted and we, his people, are renewed in the joy of our salvation.

Introduction: Everyone knows what "worship is." Why do we have to define it? How have we come to have "Worship Wars" in the church?

This week: What we believe about corporate worship.

Next week: What do we *do* when we gather for worship and why.

I. A Call to Worship

A. Made to Worship

1. Before the Fall

- In perfect communion with God (Revelation 4:11)
- Worship was natural (Westminster Shorter Catechism #1)

2. After the Fall?

- Still our highest calling (Psalm 100; Mark 12:30)
- We see in a mirror dimly (1 Corinthians 13:12)

Real problem?

3. Impossible to *not* worship

- a. We will worship.
 - Won't worship God? We will fill that void.
- b. We become like what we worship. (Psalm 115:4-8)

NOTE: What we worship and what we *do* go hand in hand.

4. God calls us to worship him alone! (Matthew 4:10)

B. An unending theme

- Genesis 4:26; Psalm 29:2; Isaiah 19:23; Matthew 2:2; Heb.12:28; Revelation 7:9-12

II. The One We Worship

- Worthy of Praise! Psalm 18:3

NOTE: Without "wonder" in regard to God, there is no real *worship*.

A. His person - Westminster Larger Catechism #7

B. His works

1. In Creation
2. In Re-creation, redemption!
3. In Providence
4. Love and Mercy

NOTE: Do you want a richer experience of worship?

Seek to know Him – as He has made himself known!

III. The Place of Worship

A. In all of life

- Called to give praise and honor to Lord at all times, in all things

- 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Chronicles 16:11; Psalm 34:1

B. In corporate union – with the body

1. Its warrant

a. The worship of Israel

- A *type* of what was to come
- Christ, the perfect fulfillment of the *type*

b. The *Body of Christ*

- Constituting something greater than the individual parts
- Uniting the *whole* church

c. The New Testament example

- Acts 4:31 14:27; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 5:4

d. The experience of the church

- Great joy, power in corporate worship

2. Its nature

a. Christ-Centered

- In spirit and truth
- By means of Christ
- John 5:23; Colossians 2:9; Philippians 2:9,10; Revelation 5:6-9

b. Trinitarian

- Through the ministry of the Spirit
- United to the Son
- In communion with the Father

IV. The Privilege of Worship

A. A duty?

- Absolutely. God is worthy!

B. A delight

- We delight in Godly worship when we seek God himself

NOTE: We worship God – not the experience we have (or don't have).

V. The Priority of Worship

A. It was Israel's greatest privilege and delight

B. Is it yours?

Psalm 96:9 - Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!