

The Christian's Attitude Toward Worship

John 4:23-24

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What is worship?

- ▶ "To express by attitude and possibly by position one's allegiance to and regard for deity – 'to prostrate oneself in worship, to bow down and worship, to worship.' *'for we saw his star in the east and we came to worship him' Matt 2:2.*" (from Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain.)

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What is worship?

- ▶ "to make obeisance, do reverence to ... It is used of an act of homage or reverence to God" (Vine's Expository Dictionary)

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What is worship?

- ▶ "Courtesy or reverence paid to worth; hence, honor; respect. Act of paying divine honors to a deity; religious reverence and homage." (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)
- ▶ Reverence is defined as "a feeling or attitude of deep respect, love, awe and esteem, as for something sacred; veneration. Synonyms for reverence are honor, veneration, awe, adoration." (Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary)

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Worship is a vital part of the life of a Christian.

"I will extol thee, my God, O King: and I will bless thy name forever and ever" (Psalms 145:1).

"Holy and reverend is thy name" (Psalms 111:9).

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Our worship of God demands reverence.

- ▶ Psalms 2:11-12, ***"Worship the LORD with reverence, and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish in the way."*** (NASV)
- ▶ Psalms 5:7, ***"But as for me, by Thine abundant lovingkindness I will enter Thy house, at Thy holy temple I will bow in reverence for Thee."*** (NASV)
- ▶ Jesus, taught the disciples to address God reverently, ***"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name"*** (Matthew 6:9). cf. 1 Corinthians 14:40

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Not All Worship Is Acceptable With God.

- ▶ Vain Worship. Matthew 15:7-9
- ▶ Mock Worship. Mark 15:19-20
- ▶ Will Worship. Colossians 2:18-23
- ▶ Ignorant Worship. Acts 17:23
- ▶ True Worship. John 4:23-24
 - In Spirit – Proper disposition of mind involving sincerity and devotion.
 - In Truth – What God has authorized. Acts 2:42; 20:7; Ephesians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 11:20, 23-29

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The Purpose Of Worship

- ▶ Not to entertain. Galatians 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 1 Corinthians 11:20
- ▶ Not a display of talent in singing, praying, preaching, etc. Romans 12:3; cf. Matthew 6
- ▶ To honor God. Revelation 22:9; Ephesians 3:21; 1 Corinthians 10:31
- ▶ Remember Jesus. Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:24
- ▶ To comfort, edify, and instruct one another. 1 Corinthians 14:31; 14:26; Colossians 3:16

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The Christian's Attitude In Worship Must Involve:

- ▶ An attitude of submission to God's will. Matthew 26:39; Matthew 4:10
- ▶ An attitude of forgiveness. Luke 23:34; Matthew 6:13-14; Matthew 18:21ff
- ▶ An attitude of sacrifice. Romans 12:1-3; cf. 2 Samuel 24:24

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The Christian's Attitude In Worship Must Involve:

- ▶ An attitude of humility. Philippians 2:5-8; Matthew 18:3-4; James 4:6; Luke 18:13
- ▶ An attitude of joy. Psalms 122:1-2; Philippians 4:4; Luke 10:20
- ▶ An attitude of reverence. Hebrews 12:28; Habakkuk 2:20
- ▶ It should go without saying that we can't be reverent to God when we willfully forsake the assemblies for worship altogether. Hebrews 10:24-25

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Conclusion:

Let us not "profane" our worship by taking that which is holy and treating it as common.

- ▶ May our dress and practice in worship reflect the attitude and character of one who truly fears God and holds His holy name in reverence and awe.
- ▶ Let us bring the best we have in attitude, dignity, respect, and character as we worship God.

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