**Here I Am To Worship**

**Introduction**

1. What is worship?
2. What should be our mindset/conduct in worship?
3. How was worship meant to be performed?
4. What isn’t worship?
5. Proper Worship
6. Worship Defined

* *shâchâh* (Hebrew) – to depress, that is, prostrate (especially reflexively in homage to royalty or God).
* *proskuneō* (Greek) – (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master’s hand); to fawn or crouch to, that is, (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore).
  + *Vines* – to make obeisance (a movement of the body expressing deep respect or deferential courtesy, as before a superior; a bow, curtsy, or other similar gesture), do reverence to.
* Worship is defined by God. It is the action and attitude that God has prescribed for us. It is an homage that is paid directly toward God in the way He desires and commands.
  + John 4:24 – *Spirit* denotes the mindset/attitude where *truth* denotes the authorized action.
    - It is logical that the Supreme Being that is to be revered in a manner of action and mindset would be the one to choose what worship is acceptable.

1. Worship and Service

* It is important to note that worship is distinctly separate from everyday life of service to God. Worship is included in service, but not all service is worship.
  + Deuteronomy 8:19; 11:16 – follow, serve, worship.
  + Genesis 22:1-5 – Given command. Yet wasn’t worshipping until he went up to perform the service of worship.
    - Service denotes obedience to a master.
      * Romans 12:1-2
        + (NASV – worship) better translation is service.
        + Sacrifice an act of worship under old law but not under new. The idea is to give your life to God in everything. Live to serve Him and not the world.
      * James 1:27
      * Romans 6:12-14, 16
        + Presenting members as instruments of righteousness means living obediently.
      * These imply a life lived in complete obedience to God. However, not all acts of obedience are worship.
        + Colossians 3:18-4:1
    - Worship denotes obedience to a specific command of obeisance.
      * Singing – Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16
      * Praying – 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 14:15
      * Preaching/Teaching – Ephesians 4:11-12; Acts 20:7
      * Giving – 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
      * Lord’s Supper – 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
    - The distinction between the two is important. Worship is not a common thing, but a holy/sanctified occurrence. Worship is defined by God.
      * God has sanctified specific actions as being acts of worship. Only those are considered worship.
        + If everything we do in obedience and service to God is worship then we can essentially worship in the assembly anyway we want.
      * These things must be held as holy, and special.
      * It is always done specifically toward God.
        + Matthew 4:10; Psalm 100:2; 95:6-7

Worship is always done before God and only to Him.

* + - * + Joshua 5:13-15 – It is when we come before the Lord to worship Him that we are on holy ground.

Our attitude should reflect the concept of worship. Reverence and homage toward God in specific ways He commands. Our worship should always be in SPIRIT and TRUTH. They both need to be present.

1. Improper Worship
2. Ignorant Worship (Acts 17:23).

* (v. 22-23) – Paul wasn’t insulting them, neither was he applauding them. He simply recognized their self-proclaimed ignorance, and enlightened them on the subject of their ignorance.
* Due to their ignorance they were worshipping God in ways He did not command.
  + The city was given over to idols (v. 16).
  + They were worshipping and treating God in the same manner as the idols (v. 24-25, 29).
* (v. 30-31) – God did not dismiss their accountability to their actions. He held them accountable. There was simply a period of time before the mystery had been revealed in which God permitted the Gentiles ignorance.
  + Now that the mystery has been revealed all men are commanded to repent. All sin is included. However, the sin of ignorant worship is emphasized.
* Ephesians 5:17-20
  + Ignorance is unacceptable. He then gives them a command from God on the act of worship regarding singing.
* Matthew 7:21-23
  + Ignorance is not tolerated. Ignorant worship is *“lawlessness.”*

1. Self-imposed Worship (John 4:24).

* Colossians 2 – Self-imposed religion, or will-worship.
  + Philosophy and empty deceit (v. 8).
  + Food or in drink, or regarding a festival of new moon or Sabbaths (v. 16).
  + False humility and worship of angels (v. 18).
  + Subjection to regulations (v. 20-22).
* These things appear to be wise in self-imposed religion.
  + A decision that God wants to be worshipped your way.
* Notice the specification of acceptable worship in 3:16-17.
  + Singing/edification via the Word of Christ.
  + And all things are done must be authorized by Christ.
* Nadab and Abihu – Leviticus 10:1-3.
  + They took it upon themselves to choose which fire to offer even though God already gave them specific instruction.
  + The purpose of worship is to glorify God, revere Him, and regard Him as holy. By offering unauthorized worship (will-worship) they accomplished the opposite.
* Prophecy of the Pharisees – Matthew 15:1-9.
  + These traditions were not according to the written law.
  + They were merely traditions that were being bound on people by the Pharisees.
    - By binding the traditions they were claiming they were as authoritative as God’s word.
  + Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13.
    - *“in vain they worship Me”* (Matt. 15:9) – Worship – revere.
    - *“and their fear toward Me”* (Isaiah 29:13) – fear – reverence.
      * There is a reverence for God. However, it is *“taught by the commandment of men”* and by *“teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”*
      * Therefore the worship/reverence is in vain!
        + It is fruitless. It has no purpose. God doesn’t accept it. No benefit is received from it.
  + This worship may be in spirit, but not in truth! (John 4:24)

**Conclusion**

1. Worship is not about us. It is about “prostrating oneself in homage/reverence to God.”
2. God commands worship and deserves worship.
3. God decides what worship is and how it should be done.
4. We must not lose sight of what worship really is, lest we begin to worship in ways pleasing to us and not God.

*“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”* (John 4:24)