

# **INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

## Lessons in Review



# Lesson 1 in Review

(1) What is worship?

- Worship is reverent submission (Revelation 4:10-11).
- Worship is service (Romans 12:1).
- Worship is praise (Psalms).
- Worship is fellowship (Acts 2:42).
- Worship involves all of life (James 1:26-27).

(2) Why is worship important?

- In worship we see God (Isaiah 6:1-8).
- In worship we see ourselves and are transformed (Isaiah 6:1-8).
- In worship we see our world (Isaiah 6:1-8).
- Failure to worship separates us from God (Romans 1:18-25).

(3) Goals for worship:

- In worship, we encounter God.
- In worship, we form Christian character.
- In worship, we build Christian community.

(4) What worship is acceptable to God?

- Acceptable worship focuses on God (Revelation 4).
- Acceptable worship gives God the glory he deserves (Psalm 96:7-8).
- Acceptable worship is worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

## Lesson 2 in Review

(1) Our understanding of God is important to worship because a distorted image of God will lead to distorted worship.

(2) Worship must be focused on God, not on the quality of our worship experience.

(3) Revelation gives a picture of heavenly worship:

- Heavenly worship is worship of the Creator who is sovereign, holy, and eternal.
- Heavenly worship is worship of the Redeemer.
- Heavenly worship is worship of the King.
- Heavenly worship is worship of the Conquering Bridegroom.

(4) Psalm 15 is a worship psalm that summarizes God's requirements for worshippers. A true worshipper:

- Knows godly fear.
- Worships in humility.
- Celebrates God's grace.
- Lives a godly life.
- Lives in right relationship with the community.
- Receives God's promise of protection and blessing.

# Lesson 3 in Review

(1) God cares how we worship because:

- The form of our worship affects our understanding of God.
- The form of our worship shows why we worship.

(2) Worship is relationship - walking with God.

- God provided the means of worship for Adam and Eve.
- God took the initiative to make worship possible for Abraham.
- God's grace made worship possible for Jacob.
- When we walk with God, our lives are transformed.

(3) Worship begins with obedience.

- Worship is more than emotion or feeling.
- Worship is an active response to God's commands.
- Obedience to God deepens our relationship with him.

(4) Worship includes ritual (the Old Testament sacrifices).

- The sacrifices represented complete submission to God. (Romans 12:1)
- God honored true worship with his presence. (2 Chronicles 5)
- The public ritual must come from an obedient heart.

(5) Worship includes praise (Psalms).

- The book of Psalms shows that worship includes praise.
- The book of Psalms shows that worship includes lament.

(6) Worship includes proclamation (the Prophets).

- Worship is more than praise; it is also proclamation of truth. Preaching is worship.
- The prophets taught that ritual without reality is not worship.
- The prophets taught that true worship requires our best.
- The prophets taught that true worship involves all of life.

## Lesson 4 in Review

(1) In the Gospels, Jesus worships the Father and is himself worshipped as God.

- Jesus provided a model for worship.
- Jesus rejected the temptation to false worship.
- Jesus modeled the importance of prayer.
- Jesus will be worshipped throughout eternity.

(2) Acts shows the relationship between worship and evangelism.

- True worship inspires evangelism.
- Effective evangelism creates worshippers.
- Worship that does not lead to evangelism will become self-centered.

(3) The Epistles show important elements of worship in the early church. Worship in the early church included:

- Scripture reading
- Preaching the Word
- Public prayer
- Singing
- Offerings
- Baptism
- The Lord's Supper

(4) Revelation shows that worship is adoration of God.

- Worship blesses the worshipper, but that is not the primary purpose of worship.
- The primary purpose of worship is bringing honor to God.
- Heavenly worship reminds us that the world we see is not ultimate reality.

# Lesson 5 in Review

(1) In the early church:

- Worship was informal and intimate.
- Worship emphasized lay participation.
- Worship involved all of life.

(2) In the worship of the Middle Ages:

- Beauty was more important than spirituality.
- The people could not understand the services.
- The people were onlookers, not active worshippers.
- The gospel was replaced with ritual.

(3) In the Reformation:

- Worship demonstrated the priesthood of the believer.
- Worship was in the language of the people.
- Luther, Calvin, and the Puritans disagreed on the role of ritual in worship.

(4) In the free churches following the Reformation:

- Preaching was central.
- Congregational participation was important.
- All worship was in the language of the people.

(5) Early Methodist worship was marked by:

- An emphasis on preaching
- An emphasis on frequent Communion
- An emphasis on hymn singing
- An emphasis on small groups
- An emphasis on corporate worship
- An emphasis on evangelism

(6) Worship in early America:

- Promoted personal involvement and a passion for evangelism
- Sometimes emphasized personal experience at the cost of doctrinal integrity

(7) Our worship today reflects our beliefs about God and how we relate to him.

# Lesson 6 in Review

## (1) Music is important in our worship

- Because music was important in worship in the Bible.
- Because it expresses the theological principle of the priesthood of the believer.
- Because it expresses the theological principle of the unity of the church.

## (2) Music

- Speaks to the mind, so the message we sing must be true.
- Speaks to the heart and touches the emotions.
- Speaks to the body and should not be modeled after profane practices.
- Speaks to the will and calls for a response.
- Speaks to the whole person. This makes it valuable when it teaches truth and dangerous when it teaches heresy.

## (3) Scriptural principles for worship music include:

- The text of worship music must clearly communicate truth.
- Styles of worship music may differ. *Paul refers to psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. From its earliest days, the church sang a variety of music.*
- Not every style is appropriate for every situation. *We should ask, "In my cultural context, does this musical style glorify God?"*

## (4) Music should speak to three audiences:

- Music should proclaim praise to God.
- Music should proclaim truth to the church.
- Music should proclaim the gospel to the world.

## (5) Principles for church music include:

- The most important music of the church is congregational singing.
- The music must serve the text.

# Lesson 7 in Review

(1) We can make scripture central in worship by including scripture in all parts of our worship.

(2) Since scripture is central in worship, we should make sure that it is read clearly, expressively, and with a variety that will keep the reading fresh.

(3) Since preaching is part of worship:

- Preaching requires careful preparation.
- Preaching requires a response from the congregation.
- Preaching requires a response from the preacher.
- The preacher must be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

(4) Practical ways to make prayer a meaningful part of public worship:

- Cultivate your private prayer life.
- Learn how to pray.
- Pray the words of scripture.
- Focus on communing with God.
- Align your priorities with God's.
- Talk to God, not to the congregation.

(5) Since the offering is part of worship:

- Giving should be motivated by grace, not fear.
- Giving should be motivated by love, not reward.
- Giving should be generous, not stingy.
- Giving should be motivated by humility, not pride.
- The way we collect the offering should contribute to a spirit of worship.

(6) The Lord's Supper

- Looks back to Christ's death.
- Looks forward to Christ's return.
- Should be observed in a worthy manner.
- Should be observed in both a solemn and joyful manner.
- Should be observed in a manner that reflects the unity of the church.

# Lesson 8 in Review

## (1) How do we prepare for a worship service?

- Preparation for the worship service begins with preparation of the worship leader through time with God.
- A pattern for planning helps provide structure to the worship service.
- A theme for the worship service helps communicate a central message.
- Balance makes sure our worship speaks the whole gospel to the whole church.
  - Balanced worship shows both God's majesty and God's presence with us.
  - Balanced worship is both corporate and personal.
  - Balanced worship includes both the familiar and the new.
- Planning for worship should include the entire church leadership team.
- Planning for worship should look at the long term.
- We can plan without pressure because worship is not about us; it is about God.

## (2) What is important in leading a worship service?

- The most important audience in worship is God.
- The congregation, worship leaders, and God all interact in the worship service. The leaders do not perform worship for the audience.
- The worship leader must worship. He leads by example.
- The worship leader should be encouraging, not condemning.
- The worship leader must lead, not manipulate.
- Announcements should be handled in the least disruptive way possible.
- After planning worship, we should leave it to God to enter our services in the way he chooses to come.

# Lesson 9 in Review

## (1) Worship and Culture

- When evaluating worship styles, we must not confuse culture and scripture.
- When our culture contradicts scripture, we must submit to the commands of scripture rather than the expectations of culture.
- In order to reach the world with the gospel, we should ask how our worship can speak most effectively to our culture.

(2) Three questions help us understand the relationship between a local church's worship and the surrounding culture:

- **Who is here?** Looks at the congregation that is part of the church.
- **Who was here?** Looks at the heritage of the church.
- **Who should be here?** Looks at the community we are called to reach.

(3) Because music is so central to our cultural identity, churches should choose music that is both biblically faithful and culturally sensitive.

(4) If clapping is part of worship, we should ask, "Is clapping appropriate for this song and at this point in our worship?"

(5) If clapping is in response to a special song, we should ask, "Is my applause motivated by praise to God or by praise for a performer?"

(6) If we keep children and youth in the adult service, we should plan worship that will speak to all ages.

(7) If we have separate services for children and youth, we should make sure that the services are worship, not entertainment.

(8) We should neither over-emphasize nor deny emotion in worship.

## Lesson 10 in Review

- (1) Corporate worship occurs on Sunday; a lifestyle of worship occurs in everyday life. Both are important for a biblical view of worship.
- (2) True worship shows what we truly value.
- (3) True worship changes what we value.
- (4) A lifestyle of worship means living to the glory of God. This means that God will be the center of all of life.
- (5) A biblical model for a lifestyle of worship is seen in Romans 12:2. It includes
  - A negative aspect: "Do not be conformed to this world."
  - A positive aspect: "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind."