

What is worship? (Jacques Lilaivois 9-7-08)

- I. Intro:
 - a. Over 11 years of leading worship, I've asked God a lot of questions on about worship. These are things He has shown me.
 - b. Show slide: "**What Worship is NOT:**"
 - i. The slide is physical characteristics of a "Corporate worship service", NOT the definition of worship itself.
 - 1. John 4: The church often misunderstand worship just like the woman at the well did in that we sometimes place worship at a certain PLACE or a certain TIME or in a certain prescribed WAY.

- II. So what IS worship?
 - a. Show slide: **Worship is interaction with God that is pleasing to Him.**
 - i. Sounds like Romans 12:1.
 - ii. Worship is like a car, made of many parts. Without any one of those parts, it is useless (no gas, no tires, can't go). Like a cake: no flour, no sugar, etc, you don't have a cake.
 - iii. Here's a list of "6 ingredients" required for worship. If you're missing any one of these key ingredients, what you are doing is not fully "pleasing" or acceptable worship to God:

 - b. List of things worship REQUIRES:
 - i. Worship requires **SALVATION**.
 - 1. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life, **no one comes to the father except through me**" (John 14:6). Before Jesus, God could not accept anything you said or did as worship.
 - 2. Worship is eternal. Isaiah and John (writer of Revelations) each saw a vision of worship in heaven and saw the angels saying "Holy, Holy, Holy". These were about 700-800 years apart! Once saved, you have instant access to the worship that is eternal. How often do we take advantage of it?
 - 3. BTW, "What are we saved from"? We're not saved from hell; we're saved from eternal separation from God. Once you're saved, you become a candidate to worship God for eternity, which includes NOW.

 - ii. Worship requires **SACRIFICE (something dies or given up, something that was once there is no longer there)**.
 - 1. Old Covenant: Worship was pretty much blood sacrifice (laws).

2. New Covenant: Jesus is the BLOOD sacrifice. But that doesn't mean that there is no further need for a sacrifice. We must also be a living sacrifice as in Rom: 12:1.
 3. **But the sacrifice alone is not enough; it must ALSO be pleasing to God.** Example of pleasing sacrifice to GOD:
 - a. Cain vs. Able: Both made a sacrifice, but one was pleasing to God, the other wasn't. Why? Because Cain had sin in his heart and Able did not. God explains that to him when he noticed his offering wasn't accepted like Able's.
 4. Question: **Why does God want sacrifice? What makes a sacrifice pleasing to God?**
 - a. Psalm 51: ¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are ^[3] a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
 - b. God really wants OBEDIENCE. **He makes it clear:**
 - i. **(Psalm 50)** He doesn't need meat!!!
Tithing: He doesn't need the money, he wants the obedience. He doesn't even need your sacrifice of praise! Or he wouldn't be God.
 - ii. **I Sam 15:22:** ...To obey is better than sacrifice, to heed is better than the fat of rams.
- iii. Worship requires **OBEDIENCE: (and obedience requires action).**
1. John 14: ²³ Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.
 2. **Example of one who obeyed:** (blessings = communion with God)
 - a. Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac: When did the worship happen? (Tell each step of Abraham's 3-day trip). God gives him promises and says, "...Because you obeyed me" (Gen 22:18). God wasn't after the sacrifice, he was after to obedience.
 3. **Examples who didn't obey:** (consequences = separation from God).
 - a. Saul wiping out the Amalikites: Lost spirit of God and an evil spirit came to torment him. He lost kingship of Israel to David, who he'd call on to play the harp and the evil spirit would leave (the same

David who wrote Psalm 51 after sinning with Bathsheba – “do not cast me away from your presence or take your holy spirit away from me).

4. **Last point: Obedience is the OPPOSITE of SIN**
 - a. What was the fall? First act of disobedience.
 - b. Creation worship = complete obedience.

- iv. Worship requires **SEPERATION FROM SIN** (“holiness” which means separate).
 1. **Forgiveness and repentance:** Matthew 5: ²³“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.
 2. **Cursing:** James 3:10: Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? (The scripture is saying it’s IMPOSSIBLE to do both).

- v. Worship requires **CONSISTANCY** (faithfulness).
 1. Be consistent in worshiping, reading the word and praying. My worship suffers if I’m not consistent. Parts of my life that were not fruitful are also parts where I was not consistent.
 2. **Amos 5:** “Did you bring me sacrifices in the desert? ...Away with the noise of your songs!” IOW, “Oh NOW you want to bring me sacrifice.

- vi. Worship requires **EXPRESSION:**
 1. **Singing, dancing, clapping, kneeling, bowing, lifting hands, waving banner, speaking, being silent, reciting the word, praying, etc.**
 - a. Jesus said, “Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks” (Matt 12:34). This means what is in you, COMES OUT OF YOU!
 - b. If you have the other “ingredients”, you will not be able to help but EXPRESS your worship on Sunday!

III. **Conclusion:**

- a. Worship is more than a bunch of songs on Sunday morning, or a part of a service. **It’s Romans 12:1.**
- b. **The one thing that separates Christianity from other religions is our worship,** because our God is alive. It’s interaction with God that is

pleasing to Him. Worship is not temporary, it's eternal, from the minute you know Jesus, you are destined to eternal worship.

- c. **Final point:** Therefore worship is not a “part” of being a Christian, it IS being a Christian. It's not “part” our walk with God, it IS our walk with God. It's not a “part” of our relationship with God; it IS our relationship with God.