

SHEDDING LIGHT ON WORSHIP, #1

(COVID LOCK-DOWN STUDIES)

Well-known Bible teacher & author, the late A.W. Tozer, once said... “*The missing jewel in the crown of Christianity is true worship.*”

As I thought about that statement I asked myself the question: *What can we learn from Christ as it pertains to worship?*

Jesus Christ was a worshipper. He was born under the Law of God with the same responsibilities to love & serve His Father that we have (**Gal. 4:4**). Unlike the rest of mankind, however, He completely satisfied His Father (**Mt. 3:17; Jn. 8:29**).

His attitude & actions were perfect expressions of human worship:

- Jesus Christ knew His Father in a personal way (**Jn. 8:29**).
- He praised & gave thanks to His Father (**Jn. 11:41**).
- He loved & honoured His Father (**Jn. 8:49**).
- He prayed to & lived in dependence on His Father (**Mt. 14:23; 1 Peter 2:23**).
- He did not seek to do His own will, but the Will of His Father (**Jn. 5:30**).
- He was completely humble & obedient to His Father (**Phil. 2:8**).
- He lived to the glory of His Father (**Jn. 17:4**).

Yes, our Lord truly was a worshipper! His whole life was an eloquent testimony to that fact; and as we consider Him, we learn from His worship what should be included in ours.

He personified the following expressions of worship that have always marked true worshippers of God...

- **A Personal Relationship with God**

Without it our worship is merely an empty exercise in religious form & ritual. Only when we truly know God does our worship of Him become a reality.

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The words of David express this reality, **1 Chron. 28:9a...** (NLT)

“And Solomon my son learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately. Worship & serve Him with your whole heart & a willing mind...”

- **A Continual Expression of Praise**

We should extol the Lord at all times & His praise should be continually on our lips (**Psalm 34:1**). As we contemplate His greatness, we will praise Him (**Ps. 48:1**). As we meditate on His goodness we will give Him thanks (**Ps. 118:1**).

- **A Heart of Love that Seeks to Honour God**

Any worship that does not include a heartfelt affection & reverence for God is totally unacceptable to Him.

According to His Word we are to love & fear Him (**Matthew 22:37; Psalm 34:9**). Our worship, then, is to be more than a religious exercise... it is to be the expression of our adoring reverence for God.

- **An Attitude of Prayer**

As we worship God we commune with Him... & there can be no communing with Him without prayer. Therefore there is no true worship without prayer (**Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17**).

- **A Life of Faith**

It is also impossible to please God without faith (**Heb. 11:6**). It stands to reason then, that worship without faith cannot please Him. For worship to be acceptable to God it must reflect a genuine attitude of trust in Him & in His Word.

- **A Humble Obedience to the Will of God**

Acceptable worship always demonstrates a voluntary surrender that seeks to do everything to the glory of God (**1 Corinthians 10:31**). If we are proud, rebellious & disobedient, our worship will not be worship at all!

Closing thought...

“Worship is the believer’s response of all that he is – mind, emotions, will & body – to all that God is & says & does” - Warren W. Wiersbe

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