

WELCOME HOME WEEK 1 "WORSHIP"

– PATRICK WALTON / 10.22.2017

Romans 12:1-2 | Hebrews 13:15-17

INTRODUCTION

Every house has a set of values—some spoken, many unspoken—but they are values nonetheless.

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

The word WORSHIP isn't a Christian word—atheists, agnostics, Christians, and everyone in-between worships—the object and method changes, but the act of worshipping doesn't.

To best understand worship, we have to look at the Doctrine of the Trinity/Image: our Trinitarian God is a continuous outpourer of Himself between the persons of the Godhead in unceasing communication, love, friendship and joy; as humans, we are created in God's image—continuous outpourers.

Harold Best says, "Worship is the continuous outpouring of all that I am, all that I do and all that I can ever become in light of a chosen or choosing god."

This is why worship can't be limited to singing, preaching or a corporate gathering; worship is something that never ceases—it's *continuous*—we are constantly pouring ourselves into something, someone an experience or an interest

D.A. Carson says, "We cannot imagine that the church gathers for worship on Sunday morning if by this we mean that we then engage in something that we have not been engaging in the rest of the week. New Testament worship is something that's constant."

In scripture, there are two groups of Hebrew and the Greek words that are translated worship: 1st group refers to *bowing down, bending the knee or paying homage*, and the 2nd refers to *labor or service*.

Hebrews 13:15-17 "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls..."

Christ-centered worship is a biblically faithful UNDERSTANDING of God, combined with a biblically faithful RESPONSE to Him—this combines both ADORATION and ACTION.

PRAISE—PROCLAMATION—SERVICE—PARTICIPATION—SACRIFICE—SUBMISSION

If worship is only songs and gatherings, we remove the joy of giving the ENTIRETY of our life to God and others.

WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

Dr. Peter Jones presents the contrast between *true worship* and *idolatry* through Two-ism and One-ism;

Two-ism =  One-ism = 

Idolatry is an unbiblical, unfaithful understanding of God and an unbiblical/unfaithful response to Him.

Same as *true worship*, *idolatry* always begins internally and manifests externally—**John Calvin**

Historically, cultures revolved around sanctuaries, temples and theaters and today little has changed. Instead of the temple of Aphrodite in Corinth, we have strip clubs, porn shops and dvd's; instead of paying homage, we have subscriptions; people still dress up as their favorite animal, and praise their god all the way down the field.

We can avoid idolatry by making sure, through God's grace, that we don't turn a good thing into a god—money, sex, kids, careers, health, beauty. If our worship is directed towards anything or anyone other than God, we are worshipping an idol (**Psalm 135:15-18**).

THE TRANSFORMATIVE NATURE OF WORSHIP

Worship transforms us into the image of whatever we are looking at. Our lives will reflect whatever we are pouring them into—*worship is about being conformed into an image*.

2nd Corinthians 3:18 *"But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."*

Romans 12:1-2 *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your responsible service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

Worship according to Jesus looks like a life submitted to God, transformed by God, molded by God, and following God—Jesus poured Himself out first on God, and secondly on others

Colossians 1:9-12 *"...we...do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (ADORATION); that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy (ACTION)..."*

WHAT SHOULD OUR GATHERINGS LOOK LIKE?

1. Our gatherings should be God-centered (Matt.4:8-10)
 2. Our gatherings should be understandable (1st Cor. 14:1-12)
 3. Our gatherings should be seeker sensible (1st Cor. 14:20-25)
 4. Our gatherings should be orderly (1st Cor. 14:40)
 5. Our gatherings should be missional (our methods can become methodolatry)
- God gives us organizing freedom on how we structure our gatherings as long as these things happen—*preaching—communion/baptism—prayer—scripture reading—financial giving—singing and music*.

HOW CAN WE TELL IF WE ARE WORSHIPPING GOD? (Hebrews 13:15-17)

1. Who do we praise most with our lips?
2. How commonly do we confess Christ with our lips, what we type, sing/say?
3. Are we serving others, or do we prefer being served?
4. Are we active in the life of our congregation?
5. Who gets your health, time, emotions?
6. Are you submissive to Godly authority?