

Worship

by Kyle LeBoeuf (leboeuf.kyle@gmail.com)

Scripture readings from:

New International Version (©1973, 1974, 1983 International Bible Society)

New King James Version (© 1979, 1980, 1982 Thomas Nelson, Inc)

References: **Psalm 100, Isaiah 6, Deuteronomy 6:5, Colossians 3:23, Romans 12:1-2**

Worship.

What do you think of when you hear that word?

Do you think of a guy who can sing and play guitar really well who plays in church services and Christian conferences? Do you think of a guy who's good at speaking in front of people that stands up in front of a church and talks about this guy named Jesus?

That's the things most people think of first when they hear the word "worship". That's what we've been trained to think. We call our church services "worship services", which gives us the idea that worship is everything contained within a church service.

But worship is SO much more than that!

I went to a concert a few weeks ago that forced me to rethink of my understanding of what worship really is. It drove me to stay up late into the night on multiple occasions, praying and diving into the Word to discover more about this idea of worship, this idea that suddenly became so foreign to me.

Worship is not just singing songs and studying the Word of the Lord, while these things can be contained within worship, they are not worship in and of themselves.

I can stand in church (as I have on many occasions) and sing out loud and raise my hands and do other things that suggest that I'm "worshipping", but not be at all. It's all about the heart. It's all about our motive.

It's all about the **response**.

Worship, as we should see it, is not a **noun**, it's not a **thing**. Worship is an **action**. It's something we **do**.

Worship as we see it can be looked at in three inter-connected ways:

- **Worship is devotion.**

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."

Deuteronomy 6:5 (New King James Version)

Most dictionaries describe worship as an intense devotion or dedicated to a particular thing. For many of us, we're devoted to the wrong thing. Most people out there are intensely devoted to **something**. For some of us, it's our job, others, it's our family, or school, or a particular hobby.

We talked this past week in bible study about things we are extremely passionate about; this can be seen as **devotion**, things like music, or football.

Instead of devoting our lives to these other things, we should be devoting our lives to God. God asked us to present ourselves as a holy sacrifice to Him. It's in His commandments that we shouldn't have any gods before Him.

What do you devote your life to? Is it God?

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men”

Colossians 3:23 (New International Version)

- **Worship is a lifestyle**

There's a lot that goes on in one day. People can have hundreds of thousands of thoughts, words, and actions in a single day. People's worlds have been turned upside down within the course of one day.

24 hours is a huge amount of time for us to impact those that are around us, and it gives ample time for someone to see who we really are.

That's why worship should be seen as a **lifestyle**. Worship should be something that we express from day-to-day, every moment of our lives, because in one day, you can have a huge impact on someone's life in a big way. God can easily work through you in someone else's life in one day.

This day-to-day type of lifestyle is critical in our understanding of worship. Worship is something that occurs **every day**, not just on Sunday for church or Tuesday Night Worship or Thursday Night Bible study. It's something that we should dress ourselves in each and every moment of our life.

Worship should define who we are. We should be seen as a people of action. A people who actually cares about the state the world is in and has an intense desire to impact it for God's kingdom.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:1-2 (New International Version)

God has separated us as believers to live a lifestyle that is good and pleasing to Him and Him alone.

- **Worship is a RESPONSE**

I have a friend named Ryan, with whom I had a conversation revolving around this very subject. He pointed me to Isaiah 6 and gave me some good insight: he told me that worship is the only proper response to feeling the presence of God.

In chapter 6, Isaiah hears God calling out to Him and responds immediately, saying “Here I am”.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

Isaiah 6:8

Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!

Serve the LORD with gladness;

Come before His presence with singing.

Know that the LORD, He is God;

*It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
For the LORD is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations.*

Psalm 100 (New King James Version)

That's worship.

It's not just an emotion or feeling either. It's not something we **feel** when in the presence of God, it's something we **do**. It's an **action**.

God expresses His ultimate love for us, and the only proper response we have, is worship. It's not something that happens when we feel a certain way or hear certain music, or come to a certain point in our lifetime.

One of the number one problems we have is getting our hearts into the right mindset to feel his presence. When He feel Him there, it's that He only arrived at that moment, only that our hearts were set in the right place where we could reach out and touch Him.

That's what happened to me that night in Shreveport. I got to a point where everything else in the world just got tuned out and it was me and God, in this intimate call and response that was between Him and I alone.

So there was have it, Worship as **devotion, a lifestyle, and a response**.

Worship as action.

Let's remember that worship is something that we are doing with our day-to-day lives!