

## Chapter 51 - Worship

- I. Introduction.
  - A. Study today – Chapter 51 of Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology – Worship.
    - (1). Context: The Doctrine of the Church.
    - (2). We are not discussing the in the broad sense of everything that we do as worship, but the music, words, praise when we are assembled together.
  - B. Definition.
    - (1). From Grudem - Worship is the activity of glorifying God in his presence with our voices and hearts (page 1003).
    - (2). **Why voices and hearts?**
      - a. God seeks worshipers in spirit and in truth - **John 4:23-24**. God is spirit, worshipers respond to God in spirit and truth. [1]. **John 14:17** tells us the Spirit of truth lives in us.
      - b. **They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules - Matthew 15:9.**
    - (3). **Colossians 3:16 Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.**
  - C. **Is prayer a one-way or two-way means of communicating with God? Is worship a one-way or two-way means of glorifying God?**
  - D. **What is incorporated as worship in a church worship service?**
    - (1). Prayers.
    - (2). Singing and music.
    - (3). Dancing and other artistic forms.
    - (4). Using various gifts to encourage others.
    - (5). Healing.
    - (6). Teaching and/or preaching.
    - (7). Giving.
    - (8). Evangelism.
    - (9). Baptism.
    - (10). Sharing the Lord's Supper.
  - E. **What do we see resembling worship in the Old Testament Scripture?**
    - (1). Cain and Abel brought gifts of their herds and crops to the LORD. (The first murder was over worship. We might understand that Satan was a worshipping angel who rebelled. Later Satan tempts Jesus, to give him all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will bow down and worship him - **Matt. 4:8-9**.)
    - (2). People called on the name of the LORD - **Genesis 4:26**.
    - (3). Noah builds an altar to the LORD and sacrifices burnt offerings after the flood - **Genesis 8:20**. This is Noah's response to God's goodness.

- (4). Abram builds an altar to the LORD after God's promise of giving the land of Canaan to Abram's descendants - **Genesis 12:7**.
  - (5). Abraham is told by God to go to sacrifice his son, Isaac, as a burnt offering to God - **Genesis 22:2**.
  - (6). The original provocation with Pharaoh by Moses was for the Israelites to go into the wilderness to hold a festival to God - **Exodus 5:1**.
  - (7). In Exodus 15 after Pharaoh and his army are thrown into the sea, Moses and the people of Israel sing a song to the LORD, while Miriam and the women celebrate with tambourines and dancing.
  - (8). In Exodus we read about the tabernacle built as a place for meeting God and worshiping. We also learn about the various offerings (guilt offering, sin offering, fellowship offering, etc.) and sacrifices described in the Law. They also had three festivals for the Israelites to gather before the LORD every year.
  - (9). **What do we see related to worship and with David?** Dancing again, offerings, musical instruments, appointed singers, and the Psalms.
  - (10). In all of this, Israel was supposed to be a worshipping nation.
- F. **What do we see of worship in the New Testament Scripture?**
- (1). In the New Testament we read that Jesus is the sacrifice - **Heb. 10:8-12** Jesus is the sacrifice for sin. We do not have to offer that any more as part of our worship. **We do present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is our spiritual worship - Romans 12:1.**
  - (2). Jesus expected prayer in the synagogue, not to be a place of robbers with their selling offerings and special money - **Matthew 21:13**.
  - (3). Jesus teaches and heals in the synagogue - **Luke 6:6-10**. A man is there with a withered/deformed hand where Jesus is teaching.
  - (4). Paul's normal custom when going to a new location is to stop at the synagogue and share the scriptures - **Acts 17:1-2**.
  - (5). **Acts 2:42** the early church was dedicating themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and of prayer.
  - (6). **When you come together each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation - 1 Corinthians 14:26.**
  - (7). God is worthy of worship. Jesus is worthy of worship. Our worship service is an example of glorifying God and enjoying him forever. The focus is to be on God and not on us - Grudem, p. 1005. Read **Exodus 34:5-8** - when God comes before Moses, God must declare his name and his glory. **What is Moses' response?** It is not about Moses. Within the local worship meeting, we need to make sure the focus does not get centered on us.

2. The Results of Genuine Worship (Grudem - p. 1006).
  - A. We delight in God.
    - (1). **Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, LORD - Psalm 89:15.**
    - (2). **Surely the righteous will praise your name, and the upright will live in your presence - Psalm 140:13.**
    - (3). **Take delight in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart - Psalm 37:4.**
    - (4). **Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them - Psalm 111:2.**
    - (5). **Psalm 119** speaks of delighting in God's law and his commands. They speak to the nature of God and help guide our worship.
    - (6). **Isaiah 61:10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God.**
    - (7). **How do we show this in a worship service?**
  - B. God delights in us.
    - (1). **Psalm 51:16 You do not delight in sacrifice or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.**
    - (2). **Psalm 147:10-11 His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.**
    - (3). **Psalm 149:4 For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.**
    - (4). **Luke 12:32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.**
    - (5). **Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD, your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you; but will rejoice over you with singing.**
    - (6). **How is this shown in the worship service?**
  - C. We draw near to God in the New Covenant Worship/Relationship.
    - (1). **What is the difference between our worship and worship under the Old Testament law?**
      - a. We aren't limited to the courtyard in the temple, but can enter the Holy of Holies or the Most Holy Place. The veil/curtain was torn in two from top to bottom - **Mark 15:38.**
      - b. **Hebrews 10:22 we can draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.**

- c. **For the law made nothing perfect, and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God - Hebrews 7:19.**
    - d. **What was the worship like at Mt. Sinai; could the Israelites get close to God?** God limited them. We have come to Mt. Zion - read **Hebrews 12:18-24.**
  - D. God draws near to us.
    - (1). **James 4:8** ESV **says draw near to God and he will draw near to you.**
    - (2). **What happens if everyone is not seeking to worship God during a worship service? What effect does that have of God drawing near to us? Do we get concerned about how other people are looking at us as we seek God?**
    - (3). This is part of being conformed to Christ's image, from glory to glory - **2 Corinthians 3:18.** As we contemplate his glory, we are being transformed.
  - E. God ministers to us.
    - (1). How does God minister to us? He encourages by his word and also with words from others. This includes tongues and interpretation, words of knowledge, and words of prophecy.
    - (2). We read about the example of Jesus healing in the synagogue. God heals today.
    - (3). He reveals more of himself - **John 17:26** **I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them, and that I myself may be in them.**
  - F. God's enemies flee.
    - (1). **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies - Psalm 23:5.**
    - (2). **2 Chronicles 20:21-22** we read about King Jehoshaphat sending out the singers in front of the army. They sang and praised God and God defeated the enemy armies.
  - G. Unbelievers know they are in God's presence.
    - (1). **1 Corinthians 14:23** discusses the usage of tongues compared to prophecy. Since prophecy is understandable, the unbeliever will be convicted, worship God and declare that he is present.
    - (2). We need to be careful that the primary purpose of the worship service is not evangelism. Do we hope that people come to Christ by coming with us to church?
- 3. The Eternal Value of Worship.
  - A. **Psalm 16:11 - You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**
  - B. **We are to be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Holy Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the**

**Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ -  
Ephesians 5:18-20.**

- C. We see the eternal value of worship - **Revelation 4:10-11** with the twenty-four elders.
4. How Can We Enter Into Genuine Worship?
- A. Back to **John 4:23-24** we need to be worshipers of God in spirit and in truth.
  - B. Grudem says that this does not mean in the Holy Spirit but in the spiritual realm. I would consider looking at Romans 8 in that we are controlled by the Spirit, not by the sinful nature (verse 9). Our spirit is alive, but later in Romans 8 it says the Spirit helps us in our weakness in where we do not know what we should pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us (verse 26). I think the Spirit can also direct our worship.
  - C. **What is a contemporary worship service? How much does the choice of songs affect our worship?**
  - D. **How much does personal worship affect public worship? Does this explain why some people might perpetually skip the singing part of worship (without being legalistic)?**
  - E. **How much worship by song is needed in a worship service?**
  - F. **Is worship emotional?** Think of David and his dancing before the ark of God.