

A. WHAT IS WORSHIP?

In our day, 'worship' has become synonymous with "church music," "church song service," "Christian contemporary music," and similar terms.

- Sometimes, we think about worship with lifted hands, shouting, dancing, sitting quietly, lying prostrate before the presence of God.
- And, for sure, all of those things can be forms of, or expressions of worship.

But none of those expressions, in and of themselves, define what worship is.

So, *what is worship?*

Worship is the act of responding to God's revelation of His infinite worth.

1. Worship is all about the worth of God.

It's what the word 'worship' literally means – '*worth, 'worth-ship'*'.

One dictionary definition is, "honor given to someone in recognition of their *merit*." So, when we worship God, it's all about Him, His merit, His worth, His value.

2. God's worth is infinite.

God's not just *more* worthy than anyone else – no one but God has *any* worth, or value in and of themselves. **Only** God has worth, value, and merit, simply by virtue of ***Who He is!***

Ex. 15:11

"Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"

There's no one else like Him!

God is worthy because of...

- Who He is – '*majestic in holiness.*'

Psalm 145:3

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is

unsearchable.”

- What He’s done – *‘awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders.’*

Revelation 4:11

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.”

So, worship has **everything** to do with the worth of God, and **nothing** to do with anything else.

3. God’s worth demands a response.

- God reveals, man responds.

He reveals Himself to us, in all His majesty, holiness, and greatness.

We, then, acknowledge His worth, His value – we ‘ascribe,’ or ‘attribute’ worth to Him – to *“ascribe”* means to *“attribute something to”,* or to *“regard a quality as belonging to.”*

Deuteronomy 32:3

(NASB) *“For I proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe greatness to our God! “*

(GW) *“I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Give our God the greatness he deserves! “*

(MSG) *“For it’s GOD’s Name I’m preaching-- respond to the greatness of our God!”*

- We see examples of this all through scripture.

In Revelation 5, we see cascading cycles of revelation and response –

Revelation 5:6-14

The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders see the revelation of The Lamb, and they respond in worship.

Thousands of angels surrounding the throne have a revelation of how worthy The Lamb is, as they hear the song of worship being sung by the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders, and they respond in worship.

Every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea have a revelation of the glory of the One Who sits on the throne and the Lamb, as they hear the worship of the angels, and they respond in worship.

Finally, as the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders hear this glorious worship from all creatures, they say “*Amen!*” and fall down in a response of worship.

Worship is the act of responding to God’s revelation of His infinite worth.