

The Big Picture: What Worship Is and Why We Do It

Intro

1 Pet 2.4-5

“This picture reflects a worshipping community of men, women and children, joined together through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who by the power of the Holy Spirit daily delight in, demonstrate, and declare the glory and goodness of God.”

-Bob Kauflin, from message “Building a Worshipping Community: Thinking Beyond Sunday Morning”, Worship Conference 2000

- God has given us a vision for what pleases Him in worship.

- When musicians and singers lose sight of big picture in worship ministry, everything gets distorted.
 - Why do worship leaders and team members stress out during preparation for the set?
 - Why do churches split over style of music?
 - Why do people in our churches become stagnant in worship and only seem to wake up when we play their favorite song?
 - Why do worship team members get to a place of spiritual apathy and yet assume that has no bearing on their role as a member of the team?

Why Worship?

We were created to worship God.

- Scripture plainly states our purpose: We exist to glorify God.

Col 1:16 For by him all things were created , in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him.”

Isa 43:6-7 "...bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory..."

We were redeemed to worship God.

- After Creation came the Fall. Then what? Having created us, God now comes in Christ to redeem us? For what? For the display of the glory of His grace!

Eph 1:3-7 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood..."

What Is Worship?

Worship is the natural response to beholding the greatness and glory of God. This response involves the whole of our being – our body, will, mind, spirit, and emotions.

Worship is *theological*.

Jn 4:23-24

- If worship is a natural response to beholding God, then I need songs that show me God, remind me of who He is and what He has done.

Worship is *responsive*.

"A theology that cannot be sung is not worth having."

-Reggie M. Kidd, *With One Voice*, p. 13

- Bible clearly leaves us w/impression that at times, a lack of emotional response is downright inappropriate.

Ps 47.1-4 “Clap and shout ... **FOR...**”

Lk 7.41-50

- She experienced RADICAL FORGIVENESS – producing heartfelt worship

Worship is *comprehensive*.

- Worship is not *less* than singing, but it *is* more than singing. Worship permeates all of life.

1 Cor 10:31 “So whether you eat or drink, or *whatever you do*, do all to the glory of God.”

Col 3:17 “And *whatever you do*, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Ps 51.6, 16-17

- We need to hold onto the full description of what worship involves and guard the integrity of our ministry by pursuing everyday holiness by God’s grace.

Worship is *edifying*.

- If I’m busy trying to forget you’re next to me, I’m neglecting one of the things God brought me here for – to build you up and be built up by you.

Col 3.16 “... teaching and admonishing *one another* with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs...”

- This big picture informs everything else we’ll talk about: the songs we choose, the attitudes we serve with, the example we live out, the music we make. They are *means* to an end, not the end.