

BIBLICAL WORSHIP

Lesson 3





HIGH CHURCH TRADITIONS

- Characteristics:
 - Ritual
 - Liturgy
 - Ceremony
 - Vestments
 - Sacraments
- Examples:
 - More - Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox
 - Less - Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Reformed.



LOW CHURCH TRADITIONS

- **Characteristics:**
 - Congregational involvement
 - Less structured program
 - Evangelical emphasis
- **Examples:**
 - More – Baptist, Pentecostal
 - Less - Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Reformed.



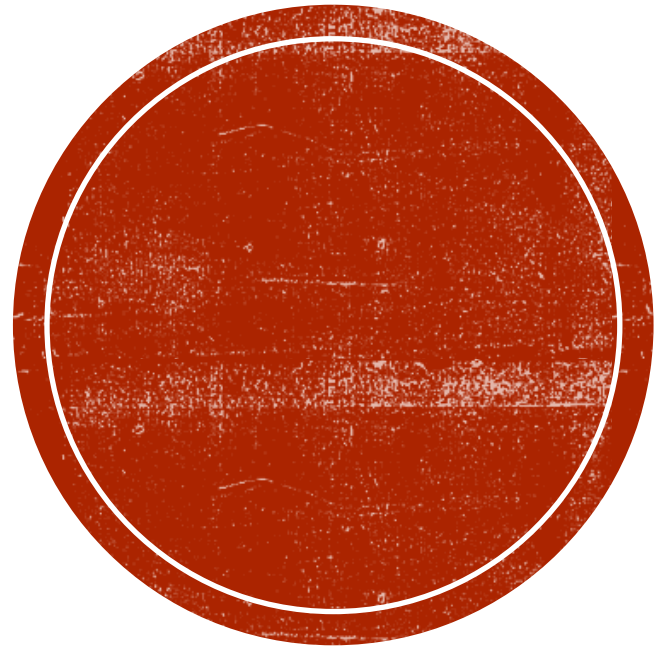
JESUS

CHARISMATIC INVASION

- The “Worship Wars” saw an influx of Charismatic doctrine and practice into both High and Low Church traditions.
- How people understood worship was fundamentally altered.



**WHAT IS
WORSHIP?**



ETYMOLOGY

- Our English word *worship* traces back to Anglo-Saxon origins around A.D. 1300 meaning “condition of being worthy”; *worth* (“value, honor”) + *ship* (“quality, condition”), or worthiness.
- The primary Hebrew word for worship is *shachab* (Strong’s H7812), meaning “to bow down, to prostrate oneself, to worship, to perform obeisance.”
- The primary Greek word for worship is *proskeneo* (Strong’s G4352) meaning “to kneel or prostrate in homage or obeisance”.

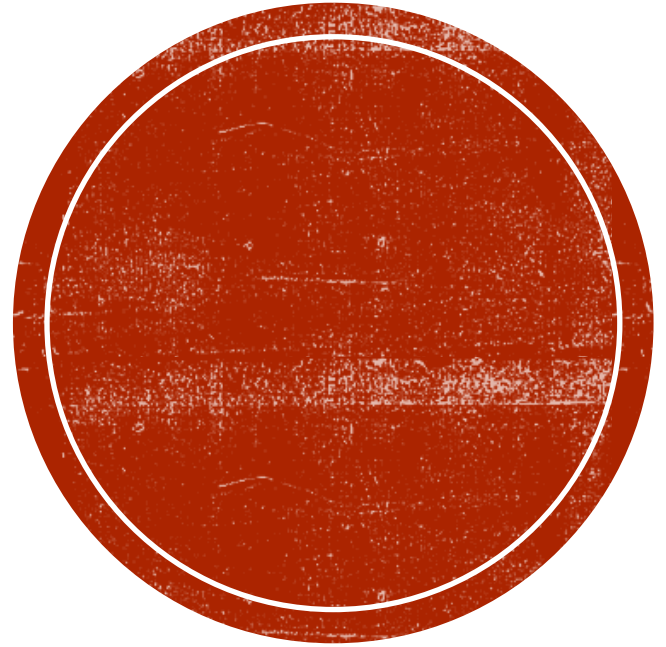


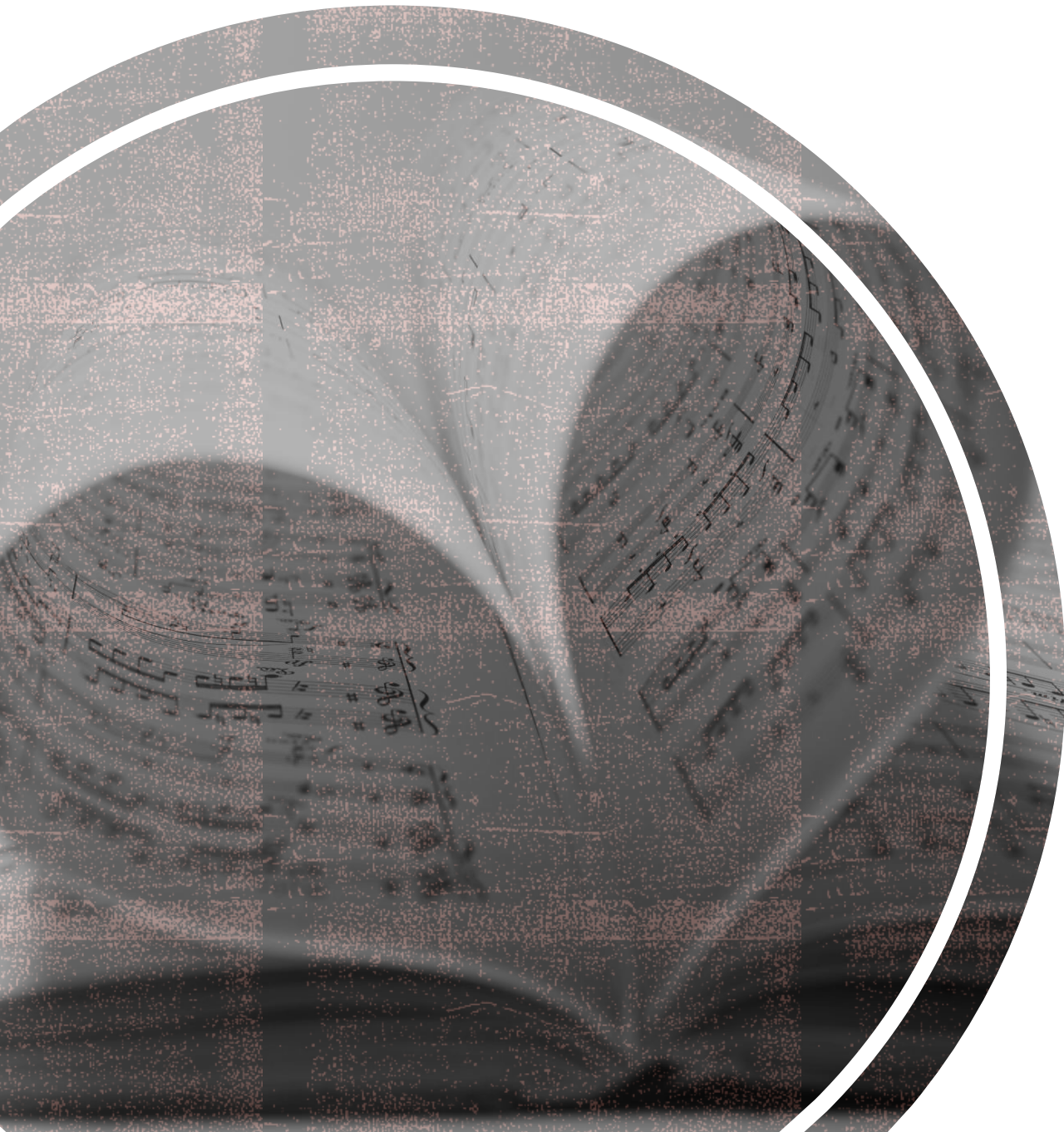
OBSERVATIONS

- The Worshipper has an object for their worship.
- The Worshipper expressed humility.
- The Object of worship is honored.
- The Worshipper submits to the authority of the object of worship.
- There is a sense of decorum



**DEFINING
WORSHIP**





WHAT IS WORSHIP?

“The substance of true worship is this: that our dear Lord speaks with us through His holy Word, and we in return speak with Him through prayer and song of praise.”

Martin Luther





WHAT IS WORSHIP?

“What is worship? Worship is to feel in your heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder and overpowering love in the presence of that most ancient Mystery, that Majesty which philosophers call the First Cause, but which we call Our Father Which Art in Heaven.”

A.W. Tozer





WHAT IS WORSHIP?

“Worship is our innermost being responding with praise for all that God is, through our attitudes, action, thoughts, and words, based on the truth of God as He has revealed Himself.”

John MacArthur





WHAT IS WORSHIP?

“Worship is the work of acknowledging the greatness of our covenant Lord.”

John Frame





WHAT IS WORSHIP?

“Worship is the believers’ response of all that they are – mind, emotions, will, and body – to what God is and says and does.”

Warren Wiersbe





WHAT IS WORSHIP?

“The worship of the church, then, consists of individual, corporate, public, and private service for the Lord which is generated by a reverence for a submission to Him who is totally worthy.”

Charles Ryrie





WHAT IS WORSHIP?

“Worship is a spiritual response to God as a result of understanding biblical truth about God.”

Scott Aniol

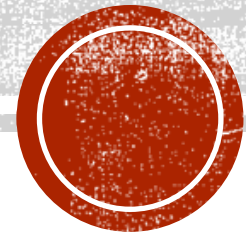


OUR DEFINITION

“Worship is man’s proper reaction to God’s revelation of Himself, whereby we exalt God through the expression of honoring God and humbling of self.”



ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP



REVELATION

- Worship begins with God.
- “By revelation we mean the act of God whereby He discloses Himself or communicates truth to the mind; whereby He makes manifest to His creatures that which could not be known in any other way” – Thiessen
- General Revelation
 - Nature – Psalm 19:1
 - History – Job 12:23
 - Human Conscience – Romans 2:14-15
- Special Revelation
 - Miracles – Exodus 15:2-5
 - Prophecy – II Chronicles 6:4-6
 - Christ – Philippians 2:5-11
 - Scripture 33:1-6



UNDERSTANDING

- Understanding is vital.
 - Nebuchadnezzar did not completely understand when He saw Christ in the fire – Daniel 3:25,28
 - Samuel did not completely understand when God called to Him – I Samuel 3.
- “For worship to be directed to God, the worshiper must understand the truth about God. That is why the preaching of God’s Word should be central in a worship service. It is why a believer must be studying the Word of God if he is to worship God with all of his life. Without understanding God, a person cannot worship Him.” - Aniol



RESPONSE - 1

- Worship begins when God is revealed, and we comprehend that revelation.
- Next, we RESPOND to that revelation.
- “...it is clear that no matter what form worship took, in the Old Testament it consisted of primarily two elements: a presentation of truth about God and a fitting response to that truth. No matter if the worship was expressed actively through ritual and ceremony or if it was a spontaneous reaction, the essence of the worship was the same – response to truth about God.” - Aniol



RESPONSE - 2

- This is important because Charismatic worship gets it *backwards*.
- They believe that if we praise God that He responds by revealing Himself.
- This subverts the divine order of worship. It makes it so God responds to man's actions. This is completely backwards and places the actions of man at the center of worship and not God. Man should respond to God, His character and His actions, in worship.
- “Together the two passages [Psalm 22:3, 100:4] established a strong sense that God's presence could be experienced in a special way through corporate praising and that sequencing accts of worship in a certain way could facilitate the experiencing of divine presence and power.” – Ruth and Lim



PURPOSE

- Worship is not an accident.
- Worship must consciously come from the heart, or it is not worship.
- Job 1:20
 - Then Job arose [a purposeful act],
 - and rent his mantle [a purposeful act],
 - and shaved his head [a purposeful act]
 - and fell down upon the ground [a purposeful act],
 - and worshipped [a purposeful act]



ABASEMENT

- The act of worship begins with bowing, whether physically or figuratively.
- We must humble ourselves before God.
- If we do not humble ourselves as we worship, then we are stealing the glory from God that is rightfully his.
- Job 1:20
 - Then Job arose and rent his mantle [humility/grief],
 - and shaved his head [humility/grief]
 - and fell down upon the ground [humility],
 - and worshipped [humility]
- Psalm 95:6
 - “O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.”



HONOR

- Worship must have an object.
- When we worship, we are honoring or glorifying God.
- It cannot be underemphasized that there is a definite link between humbling ourselves and honoring God. We are giving Him all the glory and honor will rejecting any glory and honor for ourselves. We cannot lift ourselves up in worship.
- Job 1:21
 - And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD [object of worship].



PROPIETY

- It is proper to respond to God in worship.
- There are also proper ways to worship.
- We do not get to choose *how* to please God in our worship. He has told us what He wants from us.
- Psalm 100 actions:
 - make a joyful noise (vs.1),
 - serve the Lord (vs. 2),
 - come before His presence (vs. 2)
 - enter into His gates with thanksgiving (vs. 4)
 - enter into his courts with praise (vs. 4),
 - be thankful unto Him (vs. 4),
 - bless His name (vs. 4).
- These respond to:
 - He is God (vs. 3)
 - He hath made us (vs. 3)
 - we are His people (vs. 3)
 - we are the sheep of His pasture (vs. 3)
 - He is good (vs. 5)
 - His mercy is everlasting (vs. 5)
 - His truth endureth to all generations (vs. 5)



VERSTALITY

- **MUSIC ≠ WORSHIP**
 - This is one of the biggest fallacies today.
- Our worship can manifest in many forms, such as:
 - Prayer
 - Offering
 - Testimony
 - Confession
 - Preaching
- Our entire life should be an act of worship – I Corinthians 10:31, Romans 12:1
- “All of a believer's life should be for God's glory. That is the essence of worship. As we continually present our lives to God, we are worshiping Him. Progressively becoming like Christ is one of the best ways of magnifying His unique excellence. In this sense, all of life is designed to be worship. When we understand those attributes unique to God and seek to magnify them through our actions, we are worshiping God with our response to truth. We were created to worship God in that way. We should also note that the ‘therefore’ in Romans 12:1 indicates this response of worship flows from the truth about God expressed in the first eleven chapters of Romans. So even in ‘lifestyle worship,’ both truth about God and the believer's response must be present.” - Aniol

