

April 14, 2024

## Worship Is Fundamental

by Ken Weliever

A little boy asked his father what was the highest number he had ever counted to.

“Well, I don’t know,” his Dad replied, “ I never thought about it.”

Wondering why he asked, his Dad inquired, “What’s the highest number you ever counted to?”

Without hesitation he responded, “973. “

“Well, why did you stop there?” his dad asked.

“Church was over,” the little fellow responded.

I suspect maybe you have sat through some services like that where your mind was wandering. You weren’t focused. Maybe you weren’t counting, but your thoughts were somewhere else.

Thinking about something else instead of God. It’s easy. To think about a ball game. What’s for lunch. A vacation. Or a cute, cooing baby. We are all susceptible to the least little thing which may distract us.

However, worship must be taken seriously. It’s fundamental to our faith. In Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well He offered this insight regarding worship.

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (Jn. 4:23-24).

From this text we learn three important aspects of worship which please God.

**#1 God pleasing worship must be absolute.**

Defined, worship means to “pay homage to. To venerate. To bow down to.” It literally means “to kiss the hand towards.”

In the Old Testament, God commanded Israel to have no other gods before Him (Ex. 20:3). He condemned those who worshiped Baal and Ashtoreth along side of Him (Judg. 2:3).

Today, Jesus is clear. The Father seeks worshipers. Those people who absolutely, completely, and unconditionally worship Him. When the Devil tempted Jesus to fall down and worship him, He responded, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve” (Lk. 4:7).

When John became enthralled by the revelation from the angel, he fell down to worship him. The angel rebuked John and simply said, “Worship God” (Rev. 22:9).

While we may not be guilty of worshipping angels or idols of wood or stone, it’s possible to put something, or someone in the place of God. A profession. Money. Possessions. Power. Or position. Ironically, some may go to church and actually be worshipping their church or denominational dogma instead of Him who commands them to assembly for worship.

**#2 God pleasing worship must be accurate.**

Jesus’ two words, “in truth,” encompass more than most folks realize. The concept of “truth” today has fallen into disrepute. People speak of “my truth” or “your truth.”

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

**Ladies’ Class** - Tuesday, April 23 at 10 a.m.

**Gospel Meeting** - Leon Valley with Warren Berkley, April 14-17

**Gospel Meeting** - Live Oak church of Christ, Kerrville, with David Watson, April 19-21

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

But Jesus affirmed God's Word is Truth (Jn. 17:17). When we worship in Truth we worship as God has revealed to us in Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The book of Acts and the letters written to churches, reveal five expressions of worship in which New Testament Christians participated.

They ate the Lord's Supper (communion) every first day of the week (Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 11:17-34).

They praised God in song (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12).

They contributed financially to support the Lord's work (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7).

They preached the Word of God (Ax. 20:7; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; 2 Tim. 4:1-2).

They prayed to God (Ax. 2:42; 4:23-41).

When we're worshipping God through these five avenues of worship, we can know that we are worshipping according to Truth.

**#3 God pleasing worship must be authentic.**

Worshipping "in spirit," speaks to the heart, the soul, the passion or emotion which we pour into our worship. It's possible for worship to be accurate, but lack authenticity. To be spiritless. To become ritualistic and rote. To just go through the motions with little or no emotion.

Of course, our emotions must be genuine, not fake. God hates a phony. He abhors hypocrisy. Worship is not a show. Or a time to show off. But an occasion for us to earnestly, fervently, and sincerely praise God for who He is, what He means to us, and how much we love Him. Michael Catt was correct when he wrote, "If we are going to worship in Spirit, we must develop the spirit of worship."

Is your worship God-pleasing?

If it is not absolute, open your eyes and refocus on God.

It is not accurate, Open your bible and follow the Truth.

If it is not authentic, open your heart and put the right feeling into worship.

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## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson's** had a very good report this week. The tumor is almost completely gone & no more suspicious things in his scan. His blood work was excellent

**Dinah Williams** continues to have mobility issues.

**Don Simmons** is at home and still on constant oxygen.

**Debbie McMurray** has received good test results but is still under treatment.

**Terry Behrns** is recovering at his sister's home

**Elaine Kersh** is back at The Brixton in Horseshoe Bay on hospice care.

**Lisa Trammel** has been hospitalized due to dehydration, malnutrition and pain.

**Dorthy Steadman** was taken to the ER during the week but is feeling better and waiting for test results.

**Doris Hammons** has a fracture in her ankle

**Heather Smarr's** grandfather passed away.

*If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.*

**"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"**  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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