

God's Definition of Worship | What is Worship? Part 1

I. Worship is every action or word, because everything we do and say communicates what we value.

- Genesis 22:5 — The word used here gives the picture of something being depressed, pushed down, bowed over, prostrated, or falling down flat because people only prostrate themselves before things they believe are superior to them.
- The Greek word most often translated as “worship” has the idea of falling, crouching, prostrating oneself in homage to another. It also refers to kissing another’s hand and any other act that showed reverence and respect.
- Even the English word “worship” is a derivative from the word “worthship.” Worthship is the condition of being worthy or deserving.

II. However, the simple fact that you value something isn’t as important as why you value it.

- We’re either going to invest in something because it brings glory to God or because it brings glory to self.
- The idol really isn’t the end all to end all. The car and the sex and the good grades aren’t really the god being served. The god being served is *self*. The popularity and control and perfect body and beautiful house and the religious rituals were actually the sacrifices they offered to themselves. Those were the things that made them happy. Their god was themselves. (Philippians 3:17)

III. Instead, God wants us to offer everything about ourselves to Him. (Romans 12:1-2)

- God wants us to give all that we are, have, say, do, and feel — to Him as a sacrifice. We shouldn’t be sacrificing anything to ourselves; we’re nothing more than a sacrifice ourselves. And we should be offering ourselves to God. That is our reasonable act of worship considering what He’s done for us.
- Our sacrifice is supposed to look like our conformity to the will of God. Then the rest of the chapter talks about spiritual gifts and the marks of a true Christian. And it doesn’t limit those marks to the religious ceremonies we do during a service.
- The things in our lives that prove we’re offering *ourselves* on the altar *to* God are love, righteousness, zeal, rejoicing, patience, prayer, hospitality, generosity, blessing, harmony, wisdom, kindness, and the list goes on.

IV. So, the real question is not whether we’re worshipping, but what are we worshipping?

- And — more specifically — what percentage of the day do we spend worshipping God versus worshipping self?
- To that end, we’re going to talk about Failed Worship, Split Worship, and Unified Worship.