

## What is worship?

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**William Temple:** "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God."

**David Peterson:** "Worship of the living and true God is essentially an engagement with Him on the terms that He proposes and in the way that He alone makes possible."

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**John Stott:** Christians believe that true worship is the highest and noblest activity of which man, by the grace of God, is capable.

**Louie Giglio:** Worship is our response, both personal and corporate, to God for who He is, and what He has done; expressed in and by the things we say and the way we live.

**Warren Weirsbe:** Worship is the believer's response to all they are—mind, emotions, will, body—to what God is and says and does.

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"Worship is my recognition of God's glorious revelation of Himself and my response to His gracious initiative in my life."

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"Worship is all of me responding to all I know of Him."

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<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, <sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, <sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's...

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<sup>11</sup>For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; <sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. <sup>13</sup>As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him...

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<sup>19</sup>The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all... <sup>22</sup>Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

—Psalm 103:1-5, 11-13, 19, 22 ESV

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Psalm 103:1-5

God Provokes Our Worship  
With Acts of Grace

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“Grace is God’s initiative of goodness and kindness toward us even when we are ignorant, defiant and rebellious toward Him.”

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“benefits”

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<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”

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<sup>25</sup>In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

—1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

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"Strong affections for God, rooted in and shaped by the truth of Scripture—this is the bone and marrow of biblical worship." —John Piper

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<sup>4</sup>Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

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<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth...  
<sup>9</sup>And they made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth.

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<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. <sup>11</sup>Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous One, My Servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.

—Isaiah 53:4-7, 9-11 ESV

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Psalm 103:13-18

God Invites Our Worship Despite Our Limitation and Weakness

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“He considers the frailty of our bodies  
and the folly of our souls, how little we  
can do, and expects accordingly from us,  
how little we can bear, and lays  
accordingly upon us; in all which appears  
the tenderness of His compassion.”

—Matthew Henry

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Psalm 103:19

God Deserves Our Worship  
Because of His Sovereign Rule

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God is in control!

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“We are drifting toward a religion which,  
consciously or unconsciously, keeps its eye on  
humanity rather than deity.” —Evelyn Underhill

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For as often as you eat this bread and drink  
the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until  
He comes. —1 Corinthians 11:26 ESV

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“until”

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