

MARK 7:6-7 ...

(Rev 22:8-9) ... the last command of the Bible is to be our supreme purpose, pursuit

worship is praising God for his glorious attributes and great acts
it is to adore God for who he is and what he has done and continues to do

WORSHIP IS A MARK OF SAVING FAITH

if you are saved (forgiven) by Jesus, you want to worship (praise) him (Jn 9:38) ...

(Phil 3:3) ... the word “glory” means to boast (honor, exalt, adore) with joy
we ascribe glory to Christ for who he is and for what he has done
and for what he is doing and what he will do

true worship must be generated by the Holy Spirit
God the Holy Spirit indwells all believers to prompt us to worship
worship fueled by God the Holy Spirit is the lifestyle of the truly saved

GOD IS JEALOUS FOR HIS WORSHIP

(Ex 34:13-14) ... jealousy is a cruel, destructive, horrid sin among humans
yet, jealousy is so associated with God that “Jealous is his name”
what we need to know is that there is a kind of jealousy that is a virtue

John Stott: “To be jealous of someone who threatens to outshine us in beauty or brains or sport is sinful, because we cannot claim a monopoly of talent in those areas. If, on the other hand, a third party enters a marriage, the jealousy of the injured person, who is being displaced, is righteous because the intruder has no right to be there.”

Christopher Wright: “A God who was not jealous ... would be as contemptible as a husband who didn’t care whether or not his wife was faithful to him.”

God will brook no rival suitors for our whole-hearted devotion and worship
when we give our worship to that which is not God (idols) we provoke his jealousy
the jealousy of the only true God means he refuses to share his worship with another

GOD IS NOT PLEASED WITH ALL EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP

(Mk 7:6-7) ... God does not delight in our worship when our heart is far from him
our worship is empty – it is void of reality – it is hypocritical
makes void the word of God in your life (v8, 9 13) ...

there’s more, these Pharisees were harsh and judgmental as well (Jas 3:9f) ...

WE MUST WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

(Jn 4:24) ... we've already talked about how the Holy Spirit generates our worship
"spirit" refers to our inner person ... "truth" refers to biblical revelation ...

Mary's praise (Lk 1:46f) ... heart and head / sincere (Ps 103:1) and rational

Stephen Charnock: It is impossible to honor God as we ought, unless we know him as he is.

WORSHIP IS A CORPORATE ACTIVITY AND A DAILY LIFESTYLE AND AN ETERNALLY JOYOUS REALITY

i) I say worship is a corporate activity because Scripture says:
(Ps 95:1-2, 6; Heb 10:25; Acts 13:1f) ...

ii) I say worship is daily lifestyle because Scripture says:
(Ps 104:33; Ps 145:1-2) ...

iii) I say worship is an eternally joyous reality because Scripture says:
(Ps 145:1-3; Rev 5) ...

GOD-CENTERED WORSHIP IS TRINITARIAN

(Eph 1:3-14; 2Cor 13:14) ...

Good morning heavenly Father, good morning Lord Jesus, good morning Holy Spirit.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit ...

Heavenly Father, I pray that I am live this day in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God, have mercy upon me.
Amen.

EXTRA NOTES

the Holy Spirit know that worship is a blood-purchased privilege ...
we worship because we're indwelt by the Spirit who enables, urges us ...
it is God the Holy Spirit who moves our hearts to worship with gladness, humility

worship is especially our joyful celebration of God's saving of us (Ps 95:1) ...

David Strain: The power and dynamic of true, NT worship has nothing to do with aesthetics and taste and musical style ... The thing that makes NT worship live is the presence of God the Holy Spirit.

when we're seduced by the world (cultural idols) he is jealous

William Cowper: The dearest idol, I have known, What'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from Thy throne, And worship only Thee.

Stephen Charnock: It is impossible to honor God as we ought, unless we know him as he is.

Charles Spurgeon: "Praise is the rehearsal of our eternal song"

we worship God by speaking or singing his worth back to him
in the Bible, God's worth is mainly made known to us by means of his attributes
we worship God for his holiness, sovereignty, omnipotence, justice, love and so on ...

WORSHIP GOD!

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MARK 7:6-7 ...

Rev 22:8-9 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

WORSHIP IS A MARK OF SAVING FAITH

Jn 9:38 "Lord, I believe" and he worshipped him.

Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision [that is, the true people of God] who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.

GOD IS JEALOUS FOR HIS WORSHIP

Ex 34:13-14 You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God).

John Stott: "To be jealous of someone who threatens to outshine us in beauty or brains or sport is sinful, because we cannot claim a monopoly of talent in those areas. If, on the other hand, a third party enters a marriage, the jealousy of the injured person, who is being displaced, is righteous because the intruder has no right to be there."

Christopher Wright: "A God who was not jealous ... would be as contemptible as a husband who didn't care whether or not his wife was faithful to him."

GOD IS NOT PLEASED WILL ALL EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP

Mk 7:6-7 And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, "'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

Jas 3:9-12 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

WE MUST WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Jn 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Stephen Charnock: It is impossible to honor God as we ought, unless we know him as he is.

WORSHIP IS A CORPORATE ACTIVITY AND A DAILY LIFESTYLE AND AN ETERNALLY JOYOUS REALITY

i) I say worship is a corporate activity because Scripture says:
(see also Heb 10:25; Acts 13:1f)

Ps 95:1-2 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

ii) I say worship is daily lifestyle because Scripture says:
(see also Ps 145:1-2)

Ps 104:33 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

iii) I say worship is an eternally joyous reality because Scripture says:
(see also Revelation chapters 4-5 and 7)

Ps 145:1-2 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

GOD-CENTERED WORSHIP IS TRINITARIAN

(Eph 1:3-14; see also 2Cor 13:14)

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

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ... ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee^l of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

John Stott's daily prayer:

Good morning heavenly Father, good morning Lord Jesus, good morning Holy Spirit.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit ...

Heavenly Father, I pray that I may live this day in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God, have mercy upon me. Amen.