

## WORSHIP IN REVERENCE

When we talk about worship, we need to go to the scriptures to see how our worship should be conducted. One of the things that people seem to have forgotten in is the object of our worship Rev. 22:9 . . . “*worship God!*” It all starts with God. We must put aside self and come before God in the spirit of humility to worship God. The object of our worship is God, what pleases Him, not what pleases us. W.L. Totty stated “*If I were left to exercise my desire (based, of course, upon a lack of understanding of what the worship is to consist), I would perhaps like to play a banjo. I like the plunking sound of a banjo; and I am sure there are other members of the church who do, also, for I have heard some of them play. I would, instead of the near tasteless unleavened bread used for the Lord’s supper, perhaps prefer to have strawberry shortcake or at least some biscuits with jelly to commemorate the Lord’s death. Instead of listening to a sermon from God’s word, I might rather hear a book of poetry or a good novel read or see a play enacted. (Evidently some would rather see a puppet show, as such as that is being practiced in some so-called churches of Christ these days.) However, I am wholly convinced that such as the above mentioned would not be pleasing to God, for it is not according to his expressed desires.*” Charles Hodge stated, “*Worship is not two scoops of warm fuzzies sprinkled with a little theology on top. Worship does not consist of arranging chairs and dimming lights. Do no jazz up worship! Worship is too holy to be turned over to the kids!*”

Worship is such a wonderful and sacred privilege. Let’s notice the beauty and the reverence of worship

### I. The Beauty of Worship.

A. The Bible states in Psalm 29:2, *Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*”

1. Mentioned numerous times.

- a. I Chron. 16:29
- b. 2 Chron. 20:21
- c. Psalm 96:9

2. Worship must not be rendered to God in a slovenly, sinful, superficial manner; we must be reverent, sincere, earnest, and pure in heart both in our prayers and praises

B. What makes worship beautiful?

1. The object of our worship makes it meaningful and beautiful.

a. Men worship various things.

(1) Buddhists.

- (a) Four hundred million Buddhists regard a discolored tooth, two inches long, to be the most sacred object on earth.
- (b) Supposedly, the tooth was recovered from Buddha’s funeral pyre in 543 B.C.
- (c) It sits upon a golden lotus in the glorious temple of the tooth in Kandy, Ceylon.
- (d) It is surrounded by rubies and tons of flowers.
- (e) Each year a hundred thousand faithful Buddhists travel from various countries to visit the sacred tooth.
- (f) They come bringing gifts of gold, silver and jewels to place within the temple.

(2) Muslims and their Mohammed.

(3) We have some in our nation who seem to worship men over God.

b. Our worship must be reserved for the one true God.

(1) Joshua 24:14f– as for me and my house . . .

(2) I Kings 18:21–choose you this day.

(3) Matthew 4:10f

(4) Acts 17:23,24

c. God deserves to be worshiped. Glory is due His name.

- (1) Because of His creative power (Psa. 21:13; 95:5,6; 96:3-9).
- (2) Because of His mercy and love (Psa. 100:2-5; 101:1)
- (3) Because of His holiness (Psa. 99:2,3,5)
- d. When we worship the one true God, our worship is beautiful (Psa. 27:4).
- 2. Our fellowship with one another makes our worship meaningful and beautiful.
  - a. In singing, we teach and admonish one another (Col. 3:16)
  - b. In praying, we pray with and for one another (Acts 2:42; James 5:16)
  - c. In giving, we provide the resources to help one another (Gal. 6:10)
  - d. In the Lord' Supper we commune one with another (I Cor. 10:16,17; 11:26)
  - e. In assembling together, and receiving encouragement from the preaching of God's Word, we consider one another and provoke one another unto love and good works (Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:24,25)

## II. Reverence of Worship

- A. Psa. 89:7. . . 33:8—"stand in awe of Him"
- B. How do we "stand in awe" of God in worship?
  - 1. Awe means, archaic, "*the power to inspire fear or reverence, profound and reverent fear inspired by deity.*" [Webster's] That being said, how . . .
  - 2. By taking the time to worship (Heb. 10:25; Matt. 6:33)
    - a. We do not reverence God when we put the things of the world before the opportunity and obligation to worship Him.
    - b. If we love God with all of our heart, soul, strength and mind, then we will attend all worship services of the church (Matt. 22:37; John 14:15).
  - 3. By worshiping in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
- C. Our worship must please God.
  - 1. No matter how great our desire or how sincere our motive, God does not accept worship without divine sanction. Worship forms and patterns, must be God - ordained.
  - 2. God does not accept ignorant worship. —Acts 17:23—lack of knowledge.
  - 3. God does not accept worship following human tradition.
    - a. Tradition of hand-washing (Matt. 15:2)
    - b. Tradition of fasting (Luke 5:33)
    - c. Human traditions which conflict with God's law (Mark 7:8,9,13).
  - 4. God does not accept performance worship that seeks the favor of people.
    - a. Matt. 6 . . . to be seen of men.
    - b. Performance worship would consist of musical concerts, drama performances, etc . . .
  - 5. God does not accept arrogant worship.
    - a. The very nature of worship is awesome, humble submission.
    - b. Pride hinders worship.
    - c. Matt. 23:5-7
    - d. Luke 18:11,12
  - 6. When God reveals the object of worship, it excludes everything else (Matt. 4:10)
  - 7. When God reveals how a person should worship, He excludes everything else.
- D. When we think about the object of worship, it should cause us to have a sense of reverence.
- E. Irreverence in the public worship services of the Lord's church today should be considered as one of the tragedies of our generation.
  - 1. It is tragic in that the irreverent . . .
    - a. Does not engage in worship.
    - b. Hinders those in the same general area in their attempt to worship.
    - c. Many times hinder the overall worship by distracting and discouraging others who are worshipping or leading in worship.
  - 2. What can we do concerning irreverence? [Needs to start at home]

- a. Teach the proper concept of God.
- b. Teach proper concepts of Worship.
- c. Develop and nurture within children the characteristic of reverence.
- d. People need to learn how to behave in worship. It is not a time to laugh, talk, “court,” pass notes, manicure nails, or to otherwise distract.
- e. Would we do these things at a funeral? ? ?

Con: Worship is a wonderful privilege that is given to us as God’s children. It is indeed sad when we do not offer worship to Him that is acceptable . . . when we conduct ourselves as though we are at a party or something, instead of gathering to show reverence to our heavenly Father.