

Why Worship?

The role and importance of worship in the Kingdom of God

A kingdom is the reigning influence of a king.

Unlike political systems where democratic voting or the lack of it decides who governs, in the Kingdom of God His son Jesus who was born a king, reigns and rules by the word of God.

So in a kingdom the king is the foundation of the governing influence.

A **kingdom** is where a **king** has **dominion**.

The King therefore is the focus of what influences all those living in that Kingdom.

When we worship Him, it is our King's governing influence we are invoking.

Worship refocuses our gaze and attention on our King.

It reminds us that we are part of a Kingdom that has no end and that irrespective of our experiences in this current world we are part of a heavenly culture.

Jesus is our good King. A king who rules with Love. A king rich with mercy and abundant in grace, a good shepherd seeking the wellbeing of everyone in His care.

Worship inspires us to be like Him.

Worshipping Him reminds us of who we can aspire to be like in life.

Worshipping Him fixes the focus and reminds us of who we were created to be like, who to emulate and upon whom to pattern ourselves and sculpt our self-image.

Our King is the 'blueprint', the figurehead for all comparisons and the firstborn among us all.

All scripture references are from The King James Bible version.

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The role and importance of worship in the life of the believer.

Without worship life becomes meaningless. There ends up being no reason to go through the daily motions and no purpose behind everyday activities. So as people whether we know it or not while alienated from God we will constantly search for an idol to worship in His place. If it is not God Himself then as people we will find a substitute to fill that 'God-shaped' vacuum in our heart.

Whether it is a spouse, a football team, a sports car, a pet, a job, a bank balance, Buddha, a pop-star or Hollywood film star eventually an idol will take God's place in winning the lion-share of our daily attention and devotion.

Proverbs 4 v23, 'Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.' Our lives and the issues arising from it stem from the things we give our hearts to.

Be careful this verse exhorts with what we do with our heart.

What we focus the bulk of our energy on, our time and attention gives us ultimately the life we are living.

That is why Jesus is able to offer us more abundant life, the results of focusing our time, energy and attention on Him creates more abundant reward than anything else we could ever devote ourselves to.

Most of us want to apply ourselves to something in life and find fulfilment and satisfaction from doing so or we become bored and 'unspent'. This desire reflects a need God placed within us all to have something upon which we can focus our being and upon which we would be able to lavish ourselves.

Why Worship?

Focusing on anything other than God first is called idolatry.

However if we let the Lord put things right in our hearts and do put Him first, if we are freed from idolatry and are enabled to give Him the pre-eminence in our hearts what can we expect?

What is the result of making Him the foremost object of worship in our lives?

Well when we worship God because He is Love, we steer ourselves towards the experience of His true Love for us.

We ultimately through worship expose ourselves to the influence of His Love.

Worship keeps us travelling towards the fuller acquisition of His Love for the benefit of our heart and our soul.

In His own person He provides us with someone safe and rewarding to attach our hearts to and gives us an eternal example for who, how and what to be. We ultimately can avail ourselves of our true identity.

Without God we are at a loss for someone wholly and truly good to attach ourselves to morally. People or things eventually one way or another let us down. God's incorruptibility is dependable.

When we lift up and exalt what He is like, inwardly the admiration turns to quiet admonition to mirror ourselves on Him.

This is why we worship, this is in part the result of worshipping God and the importance to our Christian lives of walking in worship.

Zechariah 14v17, ' And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.'

(**Rain** is symbolic of God's refreshing presence.)