

Worship = Revelation + Response

ME

- Always enjoyed music. Knew it was something God-given.
- Went to Washburn. Music Education. Trombone. Worked for the church in Silver Lake
- I always knew **WORSHIP /= MUSIC** but for a long time, I didn't find an easy/simple definition that helped me understand the complexities and depth of "worship".
- Wrestled with Romans 12:1 **Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.**
- Trying to understand how worship is a part of everyday life, not just Sunday morning.
- But still had questions **How does music fit in?**
- Then I ran across a **Helpful definition** that helped me process some of those questions.
- And I began to make sense of some tricky ideas about the **Mechanics** of worship like... raising your hands.
- But before I get into that...

WE

- How about your personal experience with the concept of worship?
- **Share** among the people at your table...
 - Do you have SIMILAR QUESTIONS to me?
 - What are your CONFUSIONS on the idea of worship?
 - How do you define WORSHIP?
 - What do you think is the SIGNIFICANCE OF SINGING?

DEFINITION...

Here's a definition of worship that has really helped me grasp this concept that I hope you find helpful too! WORSHIP is a rhythm of REVELATION and RESPONSE

- Worship is responding in awe to the revelation of God's power in a thunderstorm
- Worship is saying "Thank You, God" as a response of gratitude to the revelation of God's grace when you made it to the gas station just before you ran out of gas.

- Worship is singing “all to Him I owe” as a response to the revelation of the good news that “Jesus Paid it All”
- Worship is laughing in response to the revelation of God’s creativity and humor as your child gets just as excited about watermelon as you do.
- Worship is adopting a child from foster care in response to the revelation of the truth that God rescued us and adopted us into His family and calls us His children.
- Worship is dying to your own desires, no longer listening to your own will but only the voice of Jesus as a response to the revelation of the good news that God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to die and free you from being a slave to sin

GOD

Today we’re going to take a quick look at three short principles that exist in worship, and what God’s word says in regard to these simple ideas.

HEAD and HEART. When we **RESPOND** to the **REVELATION** of God in **WORSHIP** these two elements are crucial.

HEAD is generally understood as our thoughts, our intellect.

- God desires to be worshiped for what is **TRUE** about Him.
- If we respond in worship to false revelation of God. God is not honored.
- **If I were to say to Emily, your spiky blonde hair and beautiful blue eyes are gorgeous! Emily would not be honored because those things are not true about her. She would say - I think your have me confused with Laelynn.**
- John 4:19-24 ““Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.
- God is honored when we use our “head”, our intellect, our minds, to **worship** him by **responding** to **revelations** about God that are TRUE.
- But equally as important to our “head” is our “heart”

HEART is understood to be our emotions, feelings, and usually is considered fleeting, and sometimes even considered unimportant.

- **Don't Dismiss** this element of your being!
- No, we shouldn't allow our emotions to trump logic or truth, but emotions are not to be disregarded.
- We tend to separate our emotions and our reasoning; perhaps even weighing one more important than the other; compartmentalizing how we think and respond to God.
- When Jesus describes the greatest commandment, notice how all-inclusive these definitions are of the original greek words...
 - And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart [kardia: the heart, mind, character, inner self, will, intention, center.] and with all your soul [psuché: the vital breath, breath of life, the human soul, the soul as the seat of affections and will, the self, a human person, an individual.] and with all your strength [ischus: strength (absolutely), power, might, force, ability.] and with all your mind [dianoia: understanding, intellect, mind, insight.]... Luke 10:27
- God desires to be **worshiped** when we **respond** to **revelations** of who He is NOT ONLY with our thoughts/mind/logic BUT ALSO with our emotions, feelings, our **WHOLE BEING**
- Which brings us to the next pair of elements in worship - INTERNAL and EXTERNAL

INTERNAL

- When it comes to **worship**, what matters is that our **response** is an overflow of the internal head/heart/being/will in light of a **revelation** of God.
 - God desires GENUINE hearts that seek to honor Him.
 - Jesus said of the superficial religious people: "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me..."
 - So what is happening internally when we **respond** to **revelations** of God is the difference between **worshipping** authentically or in vain.
 - But what might be a bit more uncomfortable is the fact that what happens externally is important too!
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EXTERNAL

- Take a minute to look through this list...
- These are **EXTERNAL** - responses that are modeled in the scriptures. Don't misunderstand me, I am NOT saying that your worship is not valid because you don't raise your hands or dance. What I AM saying is that the scriptures have given us an idea for what is appropriate in showing honor to our Father who is not physically tangible.
- **BOB KAUFLIN** explains the importance of external expressions in our worship...
- I know what you might say.. **BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT**
- Imagine a time when you and your spouse don't see eye to eye. Words have been said. Feelings have been hurt. But now the dust has started to settle and you are beginning to come to your senses. Mending these hurts doesn't start with warm fuzzy feelings; it starts with a swallowing of pride, and some surrender. It requires stepping across the gap even though you don't feel like it; you move towards your spouse because your desire to show him/her honor is genuine.
- Making **conscious choices** to honor God is equally valid to making an **emotional choice** to honor God (because your desire to honor Him is genuine)
- So I want to **challenge you**: Is there any physical expression of worship that God has given us and modeled for us in scripture that I've never displayed (privately or corporately)? If so, why?
- NOT because your worship is somehow validated by an external expression, but because it has been **modeled in scripture as appropriate** expression toward a physically intangible God.
- So now you might be thinking AWESOME! Next time I encounter a **revelation** of God like thinking of Him as a good Father, I'll consider **responding** with my body too while I'm in the car, and in the shower, and when no one is looking because worship is something just between me and God, right?

You're RIGHT! **Worship is all about God**--it's all about our **response** to what He has **revealed** about Himself in scripture, a **response** to what He has done. It's all about HIM!

VERTICAL

- Biblical Worship should be...
 - God focused (God is clearly seen)
 - God centered (God is clearly the priority)
 - God exalting (God is clearly honored)

HORIZONTAL

- But even though worship is all about God, and is **at times a very private** experience - it's also something that is **done TOGETHER** with His church.
 - When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. LET ALL THINGS BE DONE FOR BUILDING UP - 1 Corinthians 14:26
 - ...But be filled with the Spirit, addressing ONE ANOTHER in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs... - Ephesians 5:18-19
- **Instead of explaining** this idea, I'll share a story of a old hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
 - What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 - What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
 - O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
 - All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!
- Knowing this story, and how God has brought Joseph comfort through intense suffering singing this hymn has **both horizontal and vertical** perspectives
 - Our focus is on God and his promises to never leave us, and his promise that prayer brings us peace.
 - But these promises aren't just words rooted in scripture,
 - they are alive in the testimony of Joseph, the hymn writer,
 - and they are alive in our own story of what God has brought you through,
 - and we proclaim these words to our brothers and sisters who need a reminder
- IF YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING why our times of music here on **Sunday evenings** are free for any of us to choose songs, this is why! This horizontal aspect of worship in light of 1 Corinthians 14:26 and Ephesians 5:19 is why you have the freedom to choose a song for any reason, whether that is...

- Choosing a song and sharing that “God has proven to me His faithfulness this week and I want to praise Him for what He’s done” so that we can be encouraged by God’s work.
- Choosing a song to encourage a brother or sister who is struggling with doubt so we can rally behind them with confidence in the truth of the words we sing.
- Choosing a song simply because it’s meaningful to you and you experience great delight in expressing your love for God so that we can join you in that joy together.
- Or choosing a song because the Holy Spirit has guided you to choose it and you have no idea why, but God is prompting you because someone needs to hear the song that declares how deep the Father’s love for us.

YOU

- How has your perspective about worship changed?
- What are questions you had before that have been answered now?
- What are some ways you have (or hope to) respond to God beyond engaging in music on Sundays?
- And if this is all new to you, I encourage you to think about following Jesus as a response to the good news that God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to die and to free you from being a slave to sin.

WE

Imagine if we were a community of believers who loved truth to such a degree that it deeply affects our emotions

Imagine if our response to God were an externally visible overflow of our internal being, and expressed with such authenticity that those visiting among us would be intrigued by our conviction.

Imagine if our God-Centered worship had such a significant impact on our brothers and sisters that times of gather in worship were eagerly anticipated as an opportunity to build up one another through the testimony of God’s living and active work in our lives.