



A Short Philosophy of Worship "Toward a deeper understanding"

By Chris R. Hansen

Worship is a mandate of God.

"Worship the Lord in the majesty of holiness"
(Psalm 29:2)

"Come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."
(Psalm 95:6-7a)

"...and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."
(Deut. 6:4-5; Mark 12:29-30)

Scripture shows over and over again that God is worthy of worship. We are continually reminded that God alone is to have first place in our lives.

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."
(Romans 12:1-2)

"The hour comes, and now is when true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship Him." (John 4:23)

Worship involves the whole being. Not only do we recognize God for who He is but we also live in a way that pleases God. Those who worship God will continually seek Him out, searching to know what pleases Him.

In the words of William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44):

"Worship is the response of all that man is to all that God is and does."

"Worship is a personal response to a divine revelation"

"Worship is like backing up into four million volts of electricity: When God talks we are moved."

—Howard Hendricks—

Q: Worship is more than singing, isn't it?

A: Our whole lives would be an act of worship. Work is worship, mission is an act of worship, the obedience of Christ is worship. But when we do gather together, our prayers and songs are an overt expression of our love for God and our relationship with Him. We learn truth as we participate in them; we feel a sense of our community as we worship together. We are talking to each other as well as to God. We experience His presence, hear His voice and gain strength and vision to go back out into the world.

—Graham Kendrick—

