

# Ecclesiology

## Semester 2 – Topic 3 – Worship

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### Introduction

When the average church attender thinks of worship, often it is the external rituals of a local church gathering that come to mind. Many people view worship as attending a service like perhaps a Sunday “worship” service or a special music time where they sing “worship” songs. Phrases like “that was so uplifting” or “that really spoke to my heart” or “what an incredible experience” may be used to describe the “worship” experience.

Yet, if we are to worship in a way that honors God, we need to understand what God says about worship in His word, both individually and corporately.

### The Definition of Worship

Dictionary.com notes that worship is reverent honor and homage paid to God or a sacred personage, or to any object regarded as sacred. Other combinations of definitions can be to ascribe or attribute worth to something or someone; honor paid to a superior being; to give homage, honor, reverence, respect, adoration, praise, or glory to a superior being.

“Worship is a consuming desire to give to God, and it involves the giving of ourselves, our heart attitudes, and our possessions.” “True Worship” Study Guide by MacArthur

“Worship is our innermost being responding with praise for all that God is, through our attitudes, actions, thoughts, and words, based on the truth of God as He has revealed Himself.”  
MacArthur in The Ultimate Priority [Moody Press], p. 127

“Worship is all that we are, reacting rightly to all that He is.” MacArthur in The Ultimate Priority [Moody Press], p. 147).

“Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, nourishment of mind by His truth, purifying of imagination by His beauty, opening of the heart to His love, and submission of will to His purpose.” William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury (1942–44)

There are several NT Greek words used to that describe and are translated “worship”:

“Worship” (proskuneo) means to kiss the hand, to bow down, to prostrate oneself. The idea of worship is that one prostrates himself before a superior being with a sense of respect, awe, reverence, honor, and homage. Paying God the glory due His superior character. An attitude of devotion demonstrated by actions.

<sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen " And the elders fell down and **worshiped**.  
Rev 5:14

<sup>33</sup>And those who were in the boat **worshiped** Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!" Matt 14:33

<sup>9</sup>And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and **worshiped** Him. Matt 28:9

Scripture is clear that worship belongs to God alone:

"I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images. Isa 42:8

<sup>14</sup>--for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God-- Ex 34:14

"You shall fear **only** the LORD your God; and you shall **worship** Him and swear by His name. Deut 6:13

Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL **WORSHIP** THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM **ONLY**.'" Matt 4:10

<sup>25</sup>When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and **worshiped** *him*. <sup>26</sup>But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am *just* a man." <sup>27</sup>As he talked with him, he entered and found many people assembled. Acts 10:25-27 (see also Barnabas and Paul in Acts 14)

### ❖ **What do you prostrate yourself before?**

"Praise" (aineo) means giving joyful, verbal praise to God. The praise of God is declaring His attributes to be true. Praise gives glory to Him. Praising God is part of our worship here and now (Heb 13.15); it occurred in heaven in the past (Isa 6.3); and it will be given to God in heaven in the future (Rev 4.11). It should be continual and produces the giving of thanks to Him (Heb 13.15).

<sup>15</sup>Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. Heb 13:15

<sup>3</sup>And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." Isa 6:3

<sup>11</sup>"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created." Rev 4:11

### ❖ **Are you continually praising God (fruit of lips that give thanks) or are you unthankful?**

Praise is offered to God by:

#### Individuals

<sup>20</sup>The shepherds went back, glorifying and **praising** God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them. Luke 2:20

<sup>37</sup>As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to **praise** God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, Luke 19:37

#### Angels

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host **praising** God ... Luke 2:13

#### Corporately

<sup>4</sup>And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen Hallelujah!" <sup>5</sup>And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give **praise** to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great." Rev 19:5

<sup>46</sup>Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

<sup>47</sup>**praising** God and having favor with all the people And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47

“Glorify” (doxa) means acknowledging that God is transcendent and majestic and worthy to receive worship from His creatures. The act of glorifying God is through words and lifestyle (demonstrating the character of God as one is walking in the Spirit).

<sup>25</sup>Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home **glorifying** God. <sup>26</sup>They were all struck with astonishment and *began glorifying* God; and they were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen remarkable things today.” Luke 5:25-26

<sup>43</sup>Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, **glorifying** God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God. Luke 18:43

<sup>5</sup>Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that with one accord you may with one voice **glorify** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom 15:5-6

<sup>20</sup>For you have been bought with a price: therefore **glorify** God in your body. 1 Cor 6:20

#### ❖ **Are you living for your purpose of glorifying God?**

“Serve” (latreuo / latria) means to render religious service or homage; to worship. The service flows from a pure heart and refers to good works that we do for God resulting from a heart of gratitude for what He has done for us.

<sup>14</sup>“But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do **serve** the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; Acts 24:14

<sup>9</sup>For God, whom I **serve** in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, Rom 1:9

<sup>1</sup>Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual **service** of worship. Rom 12:1

<sup>15</sup>“For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they **serve** Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. Rev 7:15

<sup>28</sup>Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may **offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe**; <sup>29</sup>for our God is a consuming fire. Heb 12:28-29

#### ❖ **Does your worship of God move you to service?**

### **The Character of True Worship**

God seeks “true worshipers” (John 4:19-24). If there are “true worshipers” that must mean that there are also “false worshipers”.

<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup>because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>25</sup>For **they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen. Romans 1:18-19, 25

These people think they are worshipping the true God, but instead are worshipping a false God. Or they think they are worshipping when in reality they are doing something that dishonors God.

#### ❖ **In what ways do you exchange the truth of God for a lie and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator?**

The character of true worship is found in John 4:19-24.

<sup>19</sup>The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you *people* say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”

<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:19-24

From this passage, we can make several observations about genuine, personal worship.

1. True worship is location independent.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. John 4:21

❖ **Do you view worship as only occurring at a religious site?**

2. True worship is based on accurate knowledge. It is dependent on God’s revelation.

<sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. John 4:22

The Samaritans rejected much of the OT and therefore missed the majesty of God’s character and the need for a broken heart bowed before Him in humility. Instead they thought that worship of God was external.

<sup>16</sup>For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. <sup>17</sup>**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.** Psa 51:16-17

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the Lord, “Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? <sup>2</sup>“For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being,” declares the Lord. **“But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.** Isa 66:1-2

<sup>2</sup>Every man’s way is right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts. <sup>3</sup>**To do righteousness and justice Is desired by the Lord more than sacrifice.** <sup>4</sup>Haughty eyes and a proud heart, The lamp of the wicked, is sin. Prov 21:2-4

❖ **What is your “worship manual”?**

3. The Father sought me to be His worshiper.

<sup>23</sup>But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; **for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.** John 4:23

God initiated a relationship with me, choosing me from eternity past to be His worshiper.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup>just as **He chose** us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup>He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup>**to the praise of the glory of His grace**, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ... <sup>12</sup>to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ **would be to the praise of His glory.** Eph 1:4-6; 12

❖ **How does this truth change our understanding of worship?**

4. True worship is worshipping in spirit.

<sup>23</sup>But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in **spirit** and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. <sup>24</sup>God is **spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:23-24

“Spirit” here has two implications. One is the human spirit as in Romans 1:9, not in religious trappings or superficially, but with our entire being (Deut 6:4-5; Psa 51:5-17).

<sup>9</sup>For God, whom I **serve** (Gk., *latreuo*, 'worship') in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, Rom 1:9

<sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! <sup>5</sup>**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.** Deut 6:4-5

❖ **Are you worshipping God with your entire being or is it external?**

The other implication is in the Holy Spirit as in Phil 3:3.

<sup>3</sup>for we are the true circumcision, who **worship** in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, Phil 3:3

Only those who are born again, that have a saving relationship with the Father through the Son, are true worshipers of God. Worship begins with or is initiated by God, not with us. That initiation is our salvation for which we were elected to from eternity past.

In addition, only those that are indwelt with the Spirit at salvation are capable of being filled with the Spirit (i.e. walking in the Spirit) and are therefore worshipping in the Spirit.

<sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; Eph 5:18-20

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Col 3:16-17

❖ **Do you view “worship” as a “walk”?**

5. True worship is worshipping in truth.

<sup>23</sup>But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and **truth**; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and **truth**.” John 4:23-24

John, under the inspiration of the Spirit, often links the Holy Spirit and truth.

<sup>16</sup>I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup>*that is* the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. John 14:16-17

<sup>26</sup>“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the **Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, <sup>27</sup>and you *will* testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning. John 15:26-27

<sup>13</sup>But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. John 16:12-13

<sup>6</sup>This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because **the Spirit is the truth**. 1 John 5:6

“Truth” is worshiping God with knowledge and correct understanding based on His word.

<sup>23</sup>For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD ' Therefore **what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you**. Acts 17:23

<sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. John 17:17

<sup>160</sup>**The sum of Your word is truth**, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting. Psa 119:160

#### ❖ **Does your worship begin with Spirit-filled intake of the Scriptures?**

It is clear from this passage in John and related passages, that worship begins with the individual before it begins corporately. Even though corporate worship is extremely important, it is only as good or genuine or glorifying to God as the hearts of individuals gathered. Essentially, corporate worship is simply the coming together of believers as they continue to worship individually. Obviously, this does not diminish the importance and beauty of corporate worship services since they are commanded by God. Personal worship is a matter of the heart as we, based on truth, yield our spirits to the power and influence of God’s Spirit, orienting our life God-ward.

#### Preparing for Worship Personally

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>**let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.** <sup>23</sup>**Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;** <sup>24</sup>and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. Heb 10:19-25

The writer of Hebrews tells us to “draw near” not in our own worth, but through the “blood of Jesus”. When we come to draw near there are four areas in which we should examine ourselves:

1. Sincerity (sincere heart) – Sincere describes that which is genuine without superficiality, hypocrisy or ulterior motive.

❖ **Is your heart true? Is it divided in affection? Are you worshipping with your whole heart? Are you worshipping without hypocrisy? Do you have ulterior motives?**

2. Assurance (full assurance of faith) – Full assurance of faith means to be fully convinced, to be wholly certain or to be persuaded.

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ...

<sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. Heb 11:1, 6

❖ **Are you fully given over to God? Do you have doubts about His revelation, character, or works?**

3. Humility (hearts sprinkled clean) – This pictures our past salvation with continuing impacts.

❖ **Are you reminded of the depth of your sinfulness? Do you understand His character in relation to your sinfulness? Are you prostrated before Him knowing that you are unworthy to stand in His presence? Are you bowed low?**

<sup>1</sup>In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." <sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. <sup>5</sup>Then I said, **"Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."** Isa 6:1-5

<sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw that, **he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!"** <sup>9</sup>For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; Luke 5:8-9

4. Purity (washed with pure water) – This also pictures our past salvation with continuing impacts.

<sup>7</sup>Submit therefore to God Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>**Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.** <sup>9</sup>Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. James 4:7-10

❖ **Have you dealt with today's sin? Do you harbor iniquity in your heart? Have you asked the Lord to search your heart and reveal your sin? Have you confessed all known sin before God?**

5. Trust (holding fast) – God is faithful to keep his promises just as He has said in His word.

❖ **Are you faithful to the confession you have made? Do you trust God completely, knowing His character?**

The practice of personal worship is seen throughout the Scriptures:

#### God centered

<sup>10</sup>Then I fell at his feet to worship him But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Rev 19:10

<sup>8</sup>I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, "Do not do that I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God." Rev 22:8-9

<sup>24</sup>"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other You cannot serve God and wealth. Matt 6:24

#### Obedience

<sup>22</sup>Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. 1 Sam 15:22

#### Gratitude motivated service

<sup>28</sup>Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; <sup>29</sup>for our God is a consuming fire. Heb 12:28-29

### Continually praising God

<sup>15</sup>Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. Heb 13:15

### Presenting your body a living and holy sacrifice

<sup>1</sup>Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. Rom 12:1

### Placing no confidence in the flesh

<sup>3</sup>for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, Phil 3:3

### Making melody with our heart to the Lord

<sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,  
<sup>19</sup>speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; Eph 5:18-19

### Thankfulness in our hearts to God

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Col 3:16-17

### Sacrificial giving

<sup>18</sup>But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. Phil 4:18

## Elements of Corporate Worship

The gathering together of the local church is commanded (Heb 10:24-25 and a privilege as those that have been freed from the penalty, power, and one day the presence of sin through the blood of Jesus.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,  
<sup>20</sup>by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup>and  
since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>**let us** draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>**Let us** hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; <sup>24</sup>**and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,** <sup>25</sup>**not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.** Heb 10:19-25

Corporate worship can be defined as gathering publicly as a local body to worship, praise, glorify, and serve the triune God in a way that He has instructed in His word. The Scriptures provide several elements of corporate worship. As we go through these, think about how VBC is doing?

#### 1. Scripture preaching and teaching (instruction in God's word)

<sup>42</sup>They were continually **devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching** and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

<sup>12</sup>Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. <sup>13</sup>Until I come, **give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.** 1 Tim 4:12-13

<sup>1</sup>I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup>**preach the word**; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 2 Tim 4:1-2

## 2. Scripture reading

<sup>13</sup>Until I come, **give attention to the *public reading of Scripture***, to exhortation and teaching. 1 Tim 4:13

<sup>16</sup>When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter *that is coming* from Laodicea. Col 4:16

## 3. Fellowship

<sup>42</sup>They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and **to fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>**And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;** <sup>45</sup>and they *began* selling their property and possessions and **were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.** <sup>46</sup>Day by day **continuing with one mind** in the temple, and **breaking bread from house to house**, they were **taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,** <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

<sup>14</sup>Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ. 1 Peter 5:14 (see also Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; and 1 Thess 5:26)

## 4. Singing

<sup>30</sup>After **singing a hymn**, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Matt 26:30

<sup>46</sup>Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, <sup>47</sup>**praising God** and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47

<sup>25</sup>But about midnight **Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God**, and the prisoners were listening to them; Acts 16:25

<sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

<sup>19</sup>**speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;** Eph 5:18-19

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another **with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.** <sup>17</sup>Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Col 3:16-17

## 5. Observing the Lord's Supper

<sup>42</sup>They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the **breaking of bread** and to prayer. Acts 2:42

<sup>17</sup>But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. <sup>18</sup>For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. <sup>19</sup>For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you. <sup>20</sup>**Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper,** 1 Cor 11:17-20

## 6. Prayer

<sup>14</sup>These all with one mind were **continually devoting themselves to prayer**, along with *the* women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. Acts 1:14

<sup>42</sup>They were **continually devoting themselves** to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and **to prayer**. Acts 2:42

<sup>24</sup>And when they heard *this*, **they lifted their voices to God with one accord** and said, "O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them, Act 4:24

<sup>5</sup>So Peter was kept in the prison, but **prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God**. Acts 12:5

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 1 Tim 2:1-2

## 7. Regularly giving

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. <sup>2</sup>On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. 1 Cor 16:1-2

<sup>7</sup>Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor 9:7

When the body comes together it is for the ultimate purpose of glorifying God and His mission of making disciples. As such, the meeting together should be in love for building up one another in love and edification. It is all about God. There is no room for pride or self-seeking glory.

<sup>11</sup>And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>**for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;** ... <sup>15</sup>but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body **for the building up of itself in love**. Eph 4:11-16

<sup>26</sup>What is *the outcome* then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. **Let all things be done for edification**. 1 Cor 14:26

"Because God is worthy of worship and seeks to be worshiped, everything in our worship services should be designed and carried out not to call attention to ourselves or bring glory to ourselves, but to call attention to God and to cause people to think about him. It would be appropriate for us frequently to re-evaluate the various elements in our Sunday services—the preaching, public prayer, leading of worship, special music, celebration of the Lord's Supper, and even the announcements and the offering. Are they really bringing glory to God in the way they are done? [Few things destroy an atmosphere of worship more quickly than a soloist or choir who enjoy drawing attention to themselves, or a preacher who parades his own intelligence or skill in speaking. "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5).] Peter says that spiritual gifts are to be used in such a way that "in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 4:11)." Wayne Gruden in Systematic Theology [Zondervan], p.1005

## **The Bottom Line**

Worship does not just happen on Sunday mornings or at Growth Group when we sing a few songs. Worship is a continual action or ascribing worth to God as we meditate on His majesty, placing the worship of Him before everything, worshiping Him with our entire being with correct understanding from and in a manner consistent with His word.