

THE PURPOSES OF A CHURCH

Part 4: Worshiping with Others Changes You

Worship = Expressing our love and gratitude to God for who He is, what He has done, what He has said, and what He has promised to do!

“The most important commandment is this... You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength” (Mark 12:29-30 NLT).

Why Do We Express Our Love to God?

1. Because we were made to be loved by God

“We love because God first loved us” (1 John 4:19 NCV).

Long ago, even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure” (Ephesians 1:4-5 NLT).

2. Because everything comes from God

“But why should we be happy that we have given You these gifts? They belong to You, and we have only given back what is already Yours.” (1 Chronicles 29:14 CEV).

3. Because we understand life through worship

“I tried to understand all this. But it was too hard for me to see until I went to the Temple of God. Then I understood...” (Psalm 73:16-17 ICB).

4. Because God strengthens us through worship

“You, Lord, keep my lamp burning and turn darkness to light... You give me strength and You guide me right” (Psalm 18:28-32 CEV).

God Loves Wholehearted Worship!

“Hezekiah dedicated his life to serving God. Everything he did in worship in God’s temple, he did wholeheartedly. As a result, he was very successful and prospered” (2 Chronicles 31:21 GW).

“These people say they are Mine. They honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. And their worship of Me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote” (Isaiah 29:13 NLT).

“True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth! That is the kind of worshipers the Father seeks” (John 4:23 NIV).

Watching Worship Is Not Worship!

What Are Some Ways We Worship?

1. Listen to Him!

“Gather all the people together: men, women, children, and immigrants living in your towns so everyone can listen and learn to respect the Lord” (Deuteronomy 31:12 NCV).

2. Sing to Him!

“Celebrate God! Sing together – everyone! All of you with honest hearts, raise the roof!” (Psalm 32:11 MSG).

(continued)

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3. Talk to Him!

“They all joined together consistently in prayer” (Acts 1:14 NIV).

4. Give to Him!

“On every Lord’s Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week and give it back as your offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord helped you earn” (1 Corinthians 16:2 LB).

5. Obey Him!

“So, here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going to work and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best think you can do for Him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out” (Romans 12:1 MSG).