

The Worship Book of Why



Winter Bible Study Series
January 10, 2016

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What's So Special about Worshipping Together?

This first session of *The Worship Book of Why* series focuses on the biblical basis for corporate worship. For many of us, this is kind of a “no – brainer.” “Just open the doors, tell me what time, and I’ll be there!” For many of us, Sunday morning worship participation is a good habit – we come consistently. But why? Why the habit? Why the discipline that brings you here week after week? Why *do* we do it?

To answer this question, let’s begin by making it clear what we mean by *worship*. Then we’ll look at the necessity of corporate worship as a body of believers.

What is worship, anyway . . . ?

Our modern English word comes from the earlier English phrase *worth ship*. It basically is the ascribing and proclaiming the “worth” of someone or thing, thus bringing honor and glory to that which is worshiped.

Better question: What is biblical worship?

Let’s look at **Isaiah 6:1-8**. From this passage we notice:

Verses 1-3 tell us that God is the intended audience and the central person in biblical worship. Worship’s focus is simply that which pleases Him.

Verse 5 tells us that worship provides an honest assessment of our current condition.

Note the precaution mentioned in **Ecclesiastes 5:1**. . .
Remember what **Hebrews 4:12** says . . .

Our masks won’t hold up before Him. No person steps on your toes!

Verses 6-7 tell us that worship provides an opportunity for honest transformation.

We can receive a new start!

We can receive a new outlook!

Verse 8 shows us that worship’s opportunities require an honest response.

Look at **James 1: 22-25**

Still, you might ask, "What's the big deal about Sunday morning? I can have an Isaiah Six experience in my own personal quiet time." True. Yet, we have also been called as believers to worship corporately...

Acts 2:46 says that the first century church met together regularly, and don't forget the admonition we have in **Hebrews 10:25**. In fact, everything we've noted thus far about worship can and should happen to us as a group! We have a great model for worship *as a people* from the Old Testament faith community in the wilderness - just out of captivity in Egypt.

Let's look at that template as we ask . . .

Why is corporate worship necessary?

Here is the story: **Exodus 25:1-9; 40:34-38**

Here we learn:

1. Worship is to be central to the life of God's people.

(Look at Numbers 2:1)

Why?

- Worship brings us into contact with our Source for life.

(Look at Jeremiah 2:13)

Therefore -

- Worship is to be a priority

They made worship convenient!

How so . . . ?



2. Worship is a point of unity for the body.

- It's a part of our identity - (Ex. 25:8)
- It provides motive for obedience by reminding us of the supernatural reality of our calling.
- Worship is cumulative - it's a part of our journey!
(Ex. 40: 36-37)

3. Public worship is an act of accountability in expressing the freedom we have (in Christ) to come before God.

- We are to come to worship, not come to watch.
- Others are encouraged as we worship together.
- Bringing glory to God publically is more glorifying than doing so privately.
- As we worship together, we learn to take less than first place - to remove ourselves from the center of attention as we focus on the Lord.

So, in summary, worship is a central function of a body of believers. As individuals, we should prioritize worship in our schedule so that we may consistently participate in what God is saying and doing within the body of believers to which we belong!

Notes