

Worship As A Way Of Life

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1)

INTRO—We are prone to think of worship as something that can only occur in a meeting house among Christians. But worship is a broader concept than that. Those acts of worship we participate in during our assemblies are really an overflow of a worshipping life—a life of sacrifice and service to God (Romans 12:1). Everything we do is an offering that we lay at the Master's feet for His approval.

I. A LIVING SACRIFICE

A. Sacrifices Were Always Offered As An Act Of Worship. They consisted of something that was given back to God, or something brought near to God for His approval and for man to be accepted (Exodus 23:15b; 34:20d; Deuteronomy 16:16-17).

- How does one become fit to stand before God (2 Timothy 2:19-21)?

B. Lives Are To Be An Act Of Worship. In the same sense as the sacrifices described above (Romans 12:1; Hebrews 12:28). The New Testament prominently uses two words for worship—*proskuneo* which means “to kiss toward”, “to kiss the hand”, or “to bow down”, and *latreuo* which suggests “to pay homage” or “do the service”. Thus, worship is anything we offer toward God. What are some of the things we should do as an offering or act of homage to Him?

- 1 Peter 2:13—
- Ephesians 6:1—
- Ephesians 6:7—
- Colossians 3:23—
- 1 Corinthians 10:31—
- Colossians 3:17—

C. Worship In Three Dimensions. A key thought in the New Testament that describes proper acts of worship in daily living is the word “*acceptable*”. This carries the same thought as sacrificial offerings or acts of worship to God.

- Outward dimension. What actions—expressed on behalf of others—are received by God as acceptable service (Romans 14:18; 15:16; Philippians 4:18)?
- Inward dimension. What kind of personal behavior is accepted by God as reasonable service (Ephesians 5:8-10; 1 Timothy 2:1-3)?

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- Upward dimension. How are the actions that benefit others also sacrifices which glorify God (Hebrews 13:15-16)?

CONCLUSION—Worship is not just a specific set of actions in which we publicly engage, but also a series of actions that overflow from a dedicated heart, and a worshipping life (James 5:13; Philippians 4:6-7; Hebrews 13:15). That is not to say that we can just be content to worship God by the way we live, and not assemble with the saints for worship. That very attitude shows that we do not have the worshipping heart that we claim.