

“THE 7 PILLARS OF OUR CHURCH” Pillars Part 2: Real & Relevant Worship

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imaginations by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.” William Temple

- To worship is to experience reality, to touch life.
- Worship is to know, to feel, and to experience the resurrected Christ in the community.
- Worship is breaking into the Shekinah of God or being invaded by the Shekinah of God.
- Worship is our response to the overtures of love from the heart of the Father.
- Worship is kindled within us only when the Spirit of God touches our human spirit.

“As a result, we need not be overly concerned with the question of a correct form for worship. The issue of high liturgy or low liturgy, this form or that form is peripheral rather than central. We are encouraged in this perception when we realize that nowhere does the New Testament prescribe a particular form for worship.....When Spirit touches spirit the issue of forms is wholly secondary.” Bienhome Muivah

I. The **Person** Whom we Worship

- A. **Jesus** tells us who we are to **worship**. *Matt. 4:10*
- B. **Idolatry** doesn't consist only in adoring visible **objects**.
- C. To think **wrongly** about God is to have everything **wrong**.
- D. To see who the Lord is brings us to **confession**.

“The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him.”

A.W. Tozer

II. The **Priority** of Worship

- A. In response to the Lord, **worship** must be a priority in our **lives**.
- B. We must love God with our **heart, soul, mind, and strength**.
- C. The divine priority is **worship** first and **service** second.
- D. Worship is **ministering** to God. *Ezekiel 44:15*
- E. Worship is us giving our **hearts** back to God.

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III. The Preparation for Worship

- A. We should have a holy expectancy regarding worship.
- B. As we worship we must “practice the presence of God.”
- C. When there is holy expectancy, it can change the atmosphere in the room.

IV. The Primary Leader of Worship

- A. Christ is alive and present among His people.
- B. His voice can be heard in our hearts and His presence can be known.
- C. There should be no room for the elevation of private reputations.

V. The Paths into Worship

- A. Still all humanly initiated activity.
- B. Praise is another avenue into worship.
- C. Emotions need to be brought into the act of worship.
- D. The real question in worship is not, “What will meet my needs?” but “What kind of worship does God call for?” *Hebrews 13:15; I Peter 2:5; 9; Acts 5:41*