

## Worship by Design: Expression of Worship

Various

- **Here is what's before us today...**
- We have established that the Trinitarian God is the object of our worship. God has created all things to this end, and that is the end for which we are created: To Spread the glory that we find within the Trinity.
- We have established that the most immediate context for this worship is the family (Adam and Eve) and more fully the Church (people, not building), which is imaged in the marriage...the church is a family of families. Therefore, we must worship at home as well as together.
- Since God has created us for worship and given us the context of family and church to worship Him, what, then does that worship look like when we are together?
- If God is to be supreme in our affections, and I believe that He is most supreme in His own affections for Himself, then He must have at least an opinion of how we are to worship Him with great affection!
- That is what we have today. What does the Bible say about how we are to express ourselves to God in worship!

## Expressions of Worship in the Old Testament

- A. Nehemiah 8:1-12
  - a. Centrality of the Word (read & explained)
  - b. Listening as worship
  - c. Blessings & Amens (agreement)
  - d. Passion & Reverence
  - e. Give the sense
  - f. Joy (of the Lord / marked by quiet)
  - g. Transformation
- B. Isaiah 6:1-8
  - a. Revelation of God (His holiness)
  - b. Man's response (his woe)
  - c. God's forgiveness (His work)
  - d. Man's acceptance
  - e. God's call
  - f. Man's answer

## Expressions of Worship in the New Testament

- A. John 4:23-26
  - a. True Worshipers
  - b. Worship the Father
  - c. Spirit and Truth
  - d. Seeker is God
  - e. Through Christ
- A. Acts 2:42-47
  - a. Teaching
  - b. Fellowship
  - c. Prayer
  - d. Reverence
  - e. Miracles
  - f. Offerings
  - g. Integration of home
  - h. Evangelism / discipleship
- B. Ephesians 5:15-21
  - a. Order
  - b. Spirit-filled
  - c. Reading the word
  - d. Singing the word
  - e. Singing songs of testimony
  - f. Singing songs of the gospel
  - g. Passionate music
  - h. Thanksgiving
  - i. In the Name of Christ
  - j. Love for one another
- C. Colossians 3:15-17
  - a. Peace among the body
  - b. Thanksgiving
  - c. Centrality of the Word
    - i. Teaching
    - ii. Admonishing
    - iii. Singing
  - d. In the Name of Christ
- D. Revelation 1:14-20; 4-5; 7:9-17; 19:1-10;

## Expressions of Worship at UBC

### A. Preparation

- a. Great Purpose (**1 Cor.10:31**, “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”)
- b. Great Commandment (**Matt.22:37-40**, “**37** And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **38** This is the great and first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **40** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’”)
- c. Great Commitment (**2 Tim.3:16-17**, “**16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”)

### B. Attitude

- a. God as Father...Cry out “Abba”
  - i. **Gal.4:4-7**, “**4** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” **7** So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”
  - ii. **Rom.8:12-17** (“heirs”)
  - iii. Loving
  - iv. Providing
  - v. Disciplining
    1. Not Punishment
    2. **Heb.12:3-11**, “**3** Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. **4** In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. **5** And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. **6** For the

Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”  
**7** It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? **8** If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. **9** Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? **10** For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. **11** For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

3. **Heb.10:8-14**, “**8** When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), **9** then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. **10** And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. **11** And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **12** But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, **13** waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. **14** For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”

### b. Church as Family

- i. John 13:35
- ii. 2 Cor. 13:11
- iii. Gal. 5:13

- iv. 1 Thes. 4:9
- v. 1 John 3:11
- vi. 1 John 4:7

### C. Guidelines

- a. Regulative: To practice only what the scriptures command (Calvin)
- b. Normative: We are free to do whatever the scriptures do not forbid (Luther)
- c. Proposed (Soft-Regulative Principle): We will do what the scripture command; refrain from what scripture forbids; be driven by biblical principle in everything else (intentionally so) – While there is no list of what “corporate worship” should look like, there are enough elements that are consistent for us to have an idea of what we need to do

### D. Commands

- a. Public Reading of the Word
  - i. **1 Tim. 4:13**, *“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”*
  - ii. **Col. 4:15-16**, *“15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 16 And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.”*
- b. Preach the Word
  - i. **2 Tim.4:1-2**, *“I 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: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”*
  - ii. **1 Tim.3:2**, *“Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach...”*
- c. Corporate singing (**Eph.5:19**, *“addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart...”*)

- d. Prayer (**Acts 2:42**, *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*)
- e. Regular practice of the Ordinances
  - i. **Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11** (Lord's supper)
  - ii. **Matt.28:18-20** (Baptism)
- f. Offerings
  - i. **Acts 2:45**, *“And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”*
  - ii. **Acts 4:34-35**, *“34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”*
- g. Public Confession (**1 Tim.6:12**, *“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*)

### E. Restraints

- a. Resolved to be God-ward
  - i. **Matthew 15:7-9**, *“7 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: 8 “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; 9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”*
  - ii. Christ-centered
  - iii. Cross-exalting
- b. Committed to simple order (**1 Cor.14:33,40**, *“For God is not a God of confusion but of peace... But all things should be done decently and in order.”*)
- c. Edify the Body over Self
  - i. **1 Cor. 11:20-21**, *“20 When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. 21 For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk.”*
  - ii. **2 Tim.4:1-4**, *“I 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: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort,*

*with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."*

F. Freedoms (marked by a few tensions)... May be a better description than "blended worship", "tense worship"? (aided by Bob Kauflin's book, *Worship Matters*)

- a. Head and Heart
  - i. Transcendent
  - ii. Imminent
- b. Rooted and Relevant
- c. Vertical and Horizontal
- d. Edify and Evangelize

G. What does this mean for us?

- a. Simple
  - i. **1 Cor.14:26-40** (quoted)
  - ii. **John 4:23-24**, "**23** But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. **24** God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."
  - iii. **Hebrews 12:22-24**, "**2** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, **23** and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, **24** and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."
- b. Public Reading of the Word
- c. Preach the Word
- d. Corporate singing (rooted & relevant)
  - i. Voice and not instrument driven (platform)
  - ii. Head and Heart
  - iii. New and Old (consistent content)
- e. Prayer – ACTS

f. Regular practice of the Ordinances

g. Offerings

h. Public Confession

i. Marked by authenticity

i. Members only lead (**John 4:23**)

ii. Leaders engaged as "exemplars" (platform)

iii. Default to the corporate experience

**(Heb.10:24-25**, "**24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.")