

DOCTRINE OF WORSHIP

I. Vocabulary:

A. Hebrew:

1. שָׁחָה – shachah: to bow, bow down, paid homage; prostrate; translated worship(ed/ing/s) 84x.
2. עָבַד – -abad: root: to work, serve; translated worship(ers) 13x.
3. קָדַד – qadad: root: to bow one’s head; used with *shachah* to emphasize inner devotion of worship.
4. סָגַד – segid (Aramaic) fr. Hebrew סָגַד – sagad (to prostrate oneself): root: to do homage; translated worship(ed) 11x (all in Dan.3 vss.5,6,7,10,11,12,14,15 (2x),18,28).

B. Greek:

1. προσκυνέω – proskuneo: lit. to kiss, do reverence to; bow down, prostrated himself before; translated worship(ed/ers/s) 51x.
2. σέβω – sebo: worship(er) 5x; God-fearing 3x: Act.13:43; 17:4,17.
3. εὐσεβέω – eusebeo: to show piety towards; worship (1x: Act.17:23).
4. λατρεία – latreia: root: service; divine worship (2x: Heb.1:6; 9:1); service of worship (1x: Rom.12:1).
5. θρησκεία – threskeia: derivative of “religion”; worship (1x: Col.2:18).
6. σέβασμα – sebasma: object(s) of worship (2x: Act.17:23; 2The.2:4)

II. Definition and preliminary considerations:

- A. Webster defines worship: 1. A prayer, church service, or other rite showing reverence for a deity. 2. Intense love or admiration of any kind. 3. Something worshiped.
- B. This gives a general overview of worship and indicates it is not restricted to religious activity.
- C. This doctrine will center on Biblical worship and its venues of application or misapplication towards God.
- D. Unfortunately, the modern world and Church today has lost touch with true worship of God and God’s revelation of himself having become “lukewarm” (Rev.3:14ff).
- E. Denominationalism sponsors many forms and rituals of worship unauthorized for the Church Age along with other traditions of men (e.g., Mat.15:1-9; Rom.10:2).
- F. Too, many believe worship is only formal as in a church and that genuflecting, mood setting (e.g., stain glassed windows, lighting, religious music, icons), emotionalism and formal readings of Scripture, are essential elements to Christian worship.
- G. The truth of worship is that it is a way of life and can be exercised in both formal and informal settings.

DOCTRINE OF WORSHIP

H. Genuine worship of God always involves two elements: God the Holy Spirit and BD (truth). Joh.4:24

III. False worship.

A. The Bible teaches us that mankind is drawn to worship someone or something.

B. False worship parallels idolatry. 2Kgs.21:21; Psa.97:7; Isa.2:8,20; Eze.23:49; Rev.9:20

C. Idolatry finds its avenue of expression via the ISTA. Gal.5:19-21; Eph.5:5; Col.3:5

D. Pseudo worship is bound by the traditions and human viewpoint of men. Mat.15:9; Mar.7:7

E. God warned Israel that He was to be the only object/Person of worship or face the consequences. Exo.20:3-5; 34:14; Deu.5:8,9; 6:13; 8:19; 11:16-17; 30:15-18; 2Chr.7:19-22 cp.1Cor.8:4-6

F. In fact, when Israel conquered the peoples around them in establishing their nation, they were to completely destroy any and all remnants of false worship. Exo.23:24,25

G. When Israel did not worship God they substituted with worship in the form of idolatry. Exo.32:1-10; Deu.4:19; 29:24-26; Psa.106:19-20; Jer.1:16; Act.7:42-43; 1Cor.10:7

H. The penalty for idolatry in Israel was to be put to death. Deu.17:2-7

I. False prophets that promoted false ideology of worship also faced the same condemnation of death. Deu.13:1-5

J. False worship was the result of infidelity to BD. 1Kgs.9:6

K. False worship is tantamount to forsaking God. 1Kgs.9:9; 11:33

L. It provokes God to anger. 1Kgs.22:53; Jer.25:6

M. Israel's history is checkered with religiosity i.e., religious reversionism/false worship. Cp.Jer.35:15

N. Pseudo worship often has a façade of legitimacy but is spiritually bankrupt. Isa.29:13; Mat.15:8

O. Government is not above pushing and forcing false worship. E.g., Babylon; Dan.3

P. Satan seeks the approbation of worship in place of God. Cp.Luk.4:5-8; Rev.13:4

Q. False worship is quite simply the rejection of truth. Rom.1:25

R. With rejection of truth a vacuum is created forming idols of worship as the alternative to truth.

S. It will cause loss of SG₃/the wreath (prize) for the believer that engages in false worship. Col.2:18

T. The antichrist is the embodiment of false worship. 2The.2:3,4

U. False worship is rampant during Daniel's 70th week (tribulation). Rev.9:20; 13:8,12,15

V. Even to worship an elect angel is wrong. Cf.Rev.19:10; 22:8,9

DOCTRINE OF WORSHIP

- IV.** Characteristics and forms of true worship of God.
- A.** God the Father and Jesus Christ are our objects of worship. Joh.4:23 cf.Mat.2:2,11
 - B.** True worship must be within the boundaries of Spirit and truth. Joh.4:23,24
 - C.** This demands isolation of the ISTA through R_B (1Joh.1:9) as the STA aligns itself with idolatry. Neh.9:2,3; Eph.4:23-24; 1Cor.6:9-10; Phil.3:3; Col.2:18
 - D.** True worshipers apply separation (*see doctrine of...*) from believers that align with false worshiping. 1Cor.5:9-13
 - E.** It requires the right mental attitude (M/A). Cf.Heb.9:9; Rom.12:1-2; 1Cor.14:24-25
 - F.** It is an expression of devotion to God. Seen in the Hebrew *qadad*: Gen.24:48,52; Exo.4:31
 - G.** It may be spontaneous. E.g., Abraham's servant worshiping in response to God's answer to prayer (Gen.24:12-48); another manifestation of Divine providence is 1Sam.28:14; spontaneous acts of obeisance, Neh.8:1-6; Mat.14:25-33
 - H.** Worship is performed in our spiritual service to God. Luk.4:8; Rom.12:1
 - I.** This means that function of our spiritual gifts and application of BD is a form of worship.
 - J.** Assimilation of the truth of BD constitutes true worship. Jdg.7:15
 - K.** Bible class is an expression of formal worship.
 - L.** Acclimation to the Person of Christ is worship. Mat.2:11; Mat.14:33
 - M.** True worship demands faith. Mat.28:17; Joh.9:35-38; Heb.11:21
 - N.** We can worship in song. Ps.33:1-5; 66:2,4; Eph.5:18-20; Col.3:16
 - O.** Worship means paying God His due respect under righteous fear. Ps.2:11; 29:2; 96:9
 - P.** True worship will dominate in the Millennium. Ps.22:27-29; 66:1-4; 86:9
 - Q.** Genuine worship is a manifestation of true humility by the believer. Ps.95:6
 - R.** When we worship we exalt God, His holiness (+R, +J) and His creation. Ps.99:5,9
 - S.** All creation, to include the demons, will ultimately acknowledge God for Who He is and worship him. Ps.97:7
 - T.** Dispensational orientation is essential in proper worship; the biblical pattern of worship for Israel (diet code, OT ritual, sacrifice, temple, etc.) is not the same for the Church.
 - U.** Hebrews 9 illustrates a form of worship true at one time that has been abandoned for the reality and a new covenant in worship.
 - V.** The Church's temple of worship is the believer's body (1Cor.6:19) and our priesthood is a royal priesthood (1Pet.2:9).
 - W.** True worship is further realized in the eternal state, resurrection body and by angels. Rev.4:10; 5:14; 7:11; 11:16; 19:4

DOCTRINE OF WORSHIP

- V. Conclusion.
- A. True worship is spiritual in nature.
 - B. It demands the FHS and the assimilation and application of BD.
 - C. The spiritual nature of worship is found in God the Holy Spirit operating in tandem with the human spirit conforming to God's veracity and +R.
 - D. Truth means that the worship must be genuine, acceptable by God.
 - E. It is a believer's service to God in devotion, obedience and humility through grace.
 - F. Worship is not confined to a building or formal assembly, though it is enhanced under these conditions.
 - G. The believer worships whenever they perform their Christian duty both within and overtly.
 - H. It is said that the Christian life is a moment by moment worship along with the day to day life.
 - I. We worship in a formal way whenever we assemble as a local body under divine constraints.
 - J. We worship informally whenever we apply BD otherwise in acknowledgment of the true and living Word of God (FHS + application).
 - K. The extent of true worship is commensurate with the extent of seeking the entire counsel of God in application. Cf.Act.20:27-28

*"But in vain do they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men".
Mat.15:9; Mar.7:7*