

## What Christian Worship Is and Isn't

1. **Worship is God-centered.** Worship is a human activity, but the focus of worship is not us and what we do. The focus is on God and what God says and does.
2. **Worship isn't entertainment.** In entertainment, it is the entertainer who is responsible for our experience. It is important not to use the same standards in evaluating a worship service as we do in evaluating entertainment.
3. **Worship is a communal activity.** As we talked about preparation in the prelude, worship is a work of the people. It is all of our responsibilities to engage ourselves in the worship event, and see ourselves as co-workers together, offering ourselves to God.
4. **Worship isn't a one-way street.** As we worship God, God wants us to be transformed by him. Worship that doesn't affect how we live life is not the kind of worship God has in mind (see Isaiah 58).
5. **Worship is about our whole lives.** Worshipping together prepares us to worship God in all areas of our lives: at home, school, work, and neighborhoods. What we do in worship mirrors what God calls us to do in life: praise him, proclaim his message, love one another, etc.
6. **Worship isn't just musical.** Worship can take many forms. It is anything we do that shows our conviction of God's unrivaled value and worth.

*The fuel of worship is a true vision of the greatness of God; the fire that makes the fuel burn white hot is the quickening of the Holy Spirit; the furnace made alive and warm by the flame of truth is our renewed spirit; and the resulting heat of our affections is powerful worship, pushing its way out in confessions, longings, acclamations, tears, songs, shouts, bowed heads, lifted hands, and obedient lives.*

—John Piper

*The holiness of God is the intrinsic, infinite value that he has in himself above all things. He is infinitely valuable...God is the most valuable reality in the universe. All other realities are as dust in scales compared to the value of God in and of himself. That's God's holiness.—John Piper*

*Worship gathers to sing, tell, and enact God's story of the world from its beginning to its end.—Robert Webber*

## **“That Thing We Do: Call to Worship and Invocation”**

January 9, 2011: Psalm 96, Revelation 4

**The Call to Worship is an invitation into the most worthwhile, life-changing, and cosmic activity we could undertake.**

I. What worship is...

II. Whom we worship...

III. With whom we worship...

### Reflection Questions

1. If an outsider looked at my whole life without asking any questions, what would they guess is the most important, valuable thing to me?
2. How do I determine if a worship service was “good”? Who is responsible for making a “good” worship service (may be more than one answer)?
3. For what reasons do I worship God? Try to think of reasons that arise from God’s story (Bible) as well as your own experiences.
4. In what ways does my perspective on worship change when I consider the communal and cosmic dimensions of worship?
5. Where can I take advantage of an opportunity to call others to worship in my daily life?