



## **BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY OF WORSHIP**

*Drafted by Calvary Baptist Church Elders 2010*

### **Biblical actions that should guide our worship.**

1. We will seek not to rob God of His glory. We will ascribe to God the glory that is due His name, understanding that He is the Lord and that He does not give His glory to another nor His praise to graven images. (Psalm 29:1, 2; Isaiah 42:8)
2. We will approach the Lord, in worship, with gladness and rejoicing for His gracious provision, having clothed us with the garments of salvation and covered us with the robe of righteousness. (Isaiah 61:10; Philippians 3:8)
3. We will encourage worship in both the corporate assembling of believers and in the intimacy of private communion with God. (Hebrews 10:25; Luke 5:16)
4. We will desire, pursue, and worship God above anything or anyone else (Exodus 20:1-5; 34:14; Deuteronomy 5:9, 6:13; Isaiah 26:8).
5. We will glorify His name with holiness, reverence and joy (1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 2:11; 29:2; 86:9; 96:9; Habakkuk 2:20; Hebrews 12:28-29)
6. We will take our delight and joy in God (Psalm 32:11, 37:4, 100; Philippians 4:4; Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:16).
7. We will worship God as God.
  - a. He is Creator (Psalm 95:6).
  - b. He is Holy (Psalm 99:5, 9).
  - c. He alone is God (Isaiah 43:11; Hebrews 11:6).
  - d. He is the eternal, immortal, invisible, wise King of the universe (1 Timothy 1:17).
  - e. He is the source and goal of all that is living (Romans 11:36).
  - f. He is great (Psalm 104:1).
  - g. He is Triune (Matthew 28:18-20).
10. We will recognize not to worship Him supremely will cause His blessings to cease from our lives (Deuteronomy 4:19; 5:9; 8:19; 11:16-17; 28:47-48; 30:17-18; 1 Kings 9:6-7; 2 Chronicles 7:19-20; Hosea 2:13).
11. We will recognize the folly of idolatry (Deuteronomy 4:20; 1 Kings 18:26-28; Psalm 97:7; Isaiah 4:9-20; Jeremiah 2:12-13; Habakkuk 2:18-20)

### **Ten Elements that Should Guide our Worship**

Scripture demands that God's people respond to Him in worship. The following are biblical responses to God in worship.

#### **1. Spiritually**

We are worshipping in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). And we come to worship God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; divine beings.

- a. He is holy (Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4:8).
- b. He is everlasting (Revelation 4:8).
- c. He is full of all glory, power, and blessing (Revelation 4:11).
- d. He is good and merciful (Psalm 29:1-2)

## **2. Authority**

The basis of our worship is the Word. We can know what God delights in through the testimony of the Bible. Worship is not true unless it conforms to the truth as revealed in the Scriptures (Psalm 145:18; John 4:23, 17:17; 1 Corinthians 14:23-25; Colossians 3:16).

## **3. Evangelistically**

The gospel and its contents (adoration of God, humiliation of man, redemption by Jesus, and reception of His truth) should be clear in worship. J. Ligon Duncan defines worship as “by the redeemed for the Redeemer about the redemption”.

## **4. Humility**

### a. Toward God

When the saints of Scripture were confronted by God, they were struck low in humility with the greatness of God. So will it be when we worship (Psalm 51:17; 1 Peter 5:5).

### b. Toward others

One result of worship is that our personal agendas are sacrificed for the coming good of others. A selfish person is never a worshipper (Ephesians 4:1-2; Philippians 2:3; Colossians 3:12).

### c. Toward ourselves

Because God is holy, He demands holy hearts. Hypocritical hearts are an opponent of worship (Psalm 24:3-4; Matthew 5:8; Hebrews 12:14)

## **5. Quality**

Everything God makes is good. We as those who imitate Him should strive for excellence in everything we do. God is excellent, passionate, and active therefore our worship should reflect Him (1 Samuel 16:16; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:23).

## **6. Unity**

In our corporate worship of God we glorify God for the common good of all. If something distracts from the unity of worship be it individual's attitude, style, or preferences it should be surrendered for the common good of all (Psalm 133:1; Matthew 13:52; John 17:23; 1 Corinthians 14:12, 40; Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 3:14). When we worship God properly, we unite with the saints of old.

## **7. Intensity**

We should come together with deliberate passion expecting God to be with us and speak to our hearts. God is exciting, extraordinary, and fully committed to Himself, therefore His people should manifest

the same qualities about Him (Psalm 22:26, 27:4, 63:1, 70:4, 105:3-4; Proverbs 8:17; Isaiah 55:6; Matthew 6:33, 7:7; Colossians 3:1-3; Hebrews 11:6; James 4:8).

#### **8. Joyfully**

God is not honored with hearts that do not delight in Him. To know God is to be joyful (Psalm 16:11, 32:11, 37:4, 100:2; Luke 2:10; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 3:16).

#### **9. Faithfully**

Worship is not a task, but a lifestyle to be continual throughout our lives. As Tozer says, “he who does not worship God throughout the week, will have a hard time worshipping Him on Sunday” (Psalm 27:4, 118:24; Acts 16:25; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Hebrews 13:15).

#### **10. Clarity**

Worship should be clear and free from confusion. An organized, deliberate message in no way hinders the work of the Spirit, but demonstrates His work.

### **Final Considerations that Shape Our Philosophy**

If we consider the worship setting as a “dramatic” picture, what are the parts of that “drama”?

#### **1. Who directs the corporate worship service?**

The common practice is that a pastor, music director, or other leaders direct the worship service, but we believe the Bible points to the Holy Spirit as the director in the worship service. Only the Holy Spirit can generate true worship in each individual’s heart rather than humans trying to manufacture a work of God. Because of this, we will rely much in prayer on the moving of the Spirit.

#### **2. What is the ultimate plot in a worship service?**

The common practice is that the ultimate objective in worship is either evangelism to the unbeliever or encouragement to the saints. While we would agree that both of these are worthy and biblical goals in a worship setting, they are not ultimate. The Bible clearly teaches the ultimate aim in worship is that God gets the glory. Therefore, worship services should be planned, approached and evaluated by what gives God the most glory.

#### **3. Who is the audience in a worship service?**

The common practice is that the congregation is the audience during a worship service, but we believe that it is the Triune God, not the people who are the audience. This will cause the congregation to engage and participate in worship knowing that God is present with us.

#### **4. Who is the cast in a worship service?**

The common practice is that the worship leaders and/or pastors are the cast which plays the roles in worship, but we believe the Bible teaches that all of creation especially God’s people are to be engaged in worship. Corporate worship is best when it is just that; corporate, rather

than individual. Because of this, we want to foster congregational involvement in all aspects of worship rather than a spectator mentality.

**5. What is the script in our worship service?**

The common practice is that the worship service is shaped by the creative plan of worship leaders, but we believe the Bible itself tells us how to worship. Therefore, instead of relying on our creative ideas we will depend on what the Bible clearly declares to be appropriate elements in worship.

**6. What is the stage of the worship service?**

The common practice is that the church building and specifically the stage is where corporate worship takes place, but we believe the Bible indicates that the entire universe is the stage of worship. We recognize that “all the worlds a stage” that in all of life we should always be worshipping.