

IMPORTANT ISSUES IN WORSHIP

ISAIAH 6:1-8

Questions you have asked about worship have caused me to look at this important matter again. It has been pleasant and painful to look at the worship I see in the Bible and then look at my own worship experience. It has also been very helpful. Man's greatest privilege is to worship the one true and living God. However, we often fail to encounter God and experience life change because we major on the minors and forget what worship is really about. Let's look into our hearts and at our worship asking the Lord to show us how we can truly encounter him in worship.

I. THE ESSENTIAL PURPOSE OF WORSHIP.

- A. To Honor the Lord. 1 Chron. 16:29; 2 Sam. 22:4.
- B. To Encounter the Lord. Isa. 6:1.
- C. To Gain Perspective.
 - 1. Perspective about our world.
 - 2. Perspective about ourselves.
 - 3. Perspective about our God.

II. THE CURRENT QUESTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP.

- A. Children and Worship.
 - 1. Children worship separately?
 - 2. The entire family worships together?
 - 3. A balanced approach?
 - a. Children participate in age-appropriate programs that prepare them for church services.
 - b. The family worships together on occasion.
 - c. Children participate in the worship instead of being occupied during the worship.
- B. Casual Approach to Worship.
 - 1. Should worship services be formal?
 - 2. Should worship services be casual?
 - 3. Points to be considered.
 - a. God looks on the heart instead of the outward appearance. 1 Sam. 16:7.
 - b. We should worship with an attitude of reverence. Lev. 19:30; Isaiah 6.
 - c. We should worship with a balance of rejoicing and reverence. Ps. 95:1-6.
"It is not always easy to unite enthusiasm with reverence, and it is a frequent fault to destroy one of the qualities while straining after the other." Charles Spurgeon.
 - d. Our appearance, actions and attitude in church should reflect a reverence for the things of God.

C. Contemporary or Traditional Worship.

1. Different types of music were sung in the early church. Col. 3:16.
2. Preferences in music are preferences, not convictions.
3. Principles for evaluating music.
 - a. Does it exalt the Lord?
 - b. Is its message scriptural?
 - c. Does the music or performer overshadow the Savior?

III. THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF WORSHIP.

A. Provides Hope for the Future.

- * Knowing that God sits eternally on the throne of heaven gives security and hope in the transitions of life. *

B. Provides Cleansing from the Past. 6:6,7.

1. Seeing the holiness of God caused him to recognize the sinfulness of his life.
2. Seeing the sinfulness of his life caused him to acknowledge his sin.
3. Acknowledging the sinfulness of his life led to him experiencing cleansing. 1 John 1:9.

C. Provides Purpose in Life. 6:8,9.

- * After his time of worship Isaiah knew who he would serve and what he would do. *

True worship has its focus on the Lord, not man.

True worship has a balance of joy and reverence.

True worship comes from the heart.

True worship transforms lives.

How long has it been since you have worshipped?