



# Worship in Spirit and Truth

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The word to worship comes from two words, worth and ship. The word worth meaning, "The quality that renders something desirable, useful, or valuable as given to things and also in worship to God." The word ship means as in a "collective body" like fellows in a ship. Worship is the quality of love and adoration and worth we give to God as a collective body. When we worship the Lord, we declare His worth ship as in joining together as a husband and wife or as God did between David and Jonathan. Understanding the Lord's worth is of paramount importance in the hour we are living in. Many people come to God for what His hand can provide and worship Him for what they get from the Lord. His worth is now dependent upon what He gives. In our initial walk with the Lord, He does not mind meeting us in this way, but He knows we can never grow in intimacy if this is all His WORTH is based upon.

Today in most churches we praise Him for His benefits and that is correct to do, but we hardly worship Him. We may sing about worship, but the true worship of God must be in Spirit and Truth. However; not many understand His true worth to us beyond His provision. Even in our present day services, we sing about him, and maybe to him, but the intimacy of true and genuine worship is hardly found. Yes, you may feel His presence and even see His power, but the heart to heart encounter is rarely seen. Our present "worship" structure or order of service does not allow this type of intimacy.

Worship involves first understanding the worth of the one you are worshipping. In today's society we value things only for the length of their usefulness. Because we live in an instant society we no longer keep anything for a long time. Appliances are built to last only a few years and then they need to be replaced. In our replacement environment we can change churches whenever we want. We can change Pastors when we don't like them or what they have to say. We can change spouses without much effort. Changing jobs is now a common occurrence. We hardly take time to value anything anymore for what it really is.

I believe this happened in the church when we began to intellectualize God. We have taken God apart and put Him into pieces. Doctrines, healing, provision, prosperity, teaching, evangelism, etc. are substituted for God Himself. Our view of God is in His working and not His worth as a real Person who we can know. The Gospel of John tells us that eternal life is knowing the One True God and Jesus Christ that He sent. Yet in many churches the present teaching is about what we can do for God or what



He can do for us. Like Santa Claus to a child, we look for God to "supply all my needs" verses a God in whom we can know intimately and personally.

God is a person with feelings, emotions just like us since we were made in His image. The great quest of life is not to see how much God will do for us, but how much we can know Him for the Love that He is. I am afraid since His worth to most Christians is based in Him doing or giving something for us, we can never value His worth as BEING GOD. When is the last time you just wanted to spend time in His presence not to get something, but to be with Him? We know little of what it really means to be one with Him.

Just look at our view of what a Christian marriages is today. We hardly know what is to become one flesh with our spouse which Paul writes is the real expression of Christ and His church. God made husbands and wives to become one, not just physically, but in purpose, plan and intimacy. The bible tells us Adam knew His wife. That doesn't mean in intercourse alone, but more in intimacy of hearts. In today's society the act of sex has replaced true and genuine intimacy. Our young people don't know the difference between sex and intimacy because they hardly see any examples in Christian marriages. Nor in the church do they find many who truly love the Lord intimately.

True intimacy in marriage is the sharing of the hearts and when those two hearts beat as one. This can only come when you truly understand your spouses worth in God. Intimacy with God only comes about by being one with Him and understanding of HIS ETERNAL WORTH! Jesus prayed for us to be made one in John chapter 17. Jesus desires this intimacy with us as compared to a husband with a wife, and He gave Himself completely to be our Husband and we to be His Bride.

In a Godly marriage, the husband loves the wife as Christ loves the church and gave himself for it, and the wife willingly submits to the husband in that love. It is a love-bond and not a work-bond relationship. Marriages today are based more in work-bond relationships than love-bonds. We put our money together, raise our children and do things together, but we never become one in heart. This is why the divorce rate is over 50% amongst Christians.

Beloved love-bonds can NEVER BREAK and work-bonds can NEVER LAST! Most of what we call unity in the Body of Christ is based in work-bond relationships and not love-bonds. Love-bonds are created when you lay your life down for the other and the other for you. This is what a true covenant love is! You give up your life for the other. This takes a great work of the Holy Spirit because you can never lay your life down for what you don't value or understand their worth in God.

The Holy Spirit taught me that until I love my wife and help her to be what God created her to be we could never be one. He told me that God gave me my wife for His needs first and not mine. I had to then



seek Him to see her worth, value and purpose in God and then do all He placed in me to help her become that. My needs were never mentioned to me by God as a reason to be a husband. I had to learn to seek God diligently to see her as He does and to know what her real needs are from His view point. In the past I only gave her what I thought she needed and it usually failed. God knows her better than I, and if I truly love her I will seek Him to know her as He does, then I am rightly aligned with God to love her as Christ loves the church. It was in this seeking, I began to understand His great love for me and found someone worthy of really knowing for who He is. The more I came just for Him, the more I became a Godly husband from God's perspective (not that I have arrived, I am still learning each day)

In my early years of marriage I saw my wife as "my" helpmate. That meant do everything for me and meet my needs. How wrong I was in thinking. When I learned to give up my life for her to meet God's needs she was enabled to meet every one of mine as He created her. The Lord became our focus and to love each other as He loved us. This has enabled us to grow more in love for over 27 years. It has not been perfect and we both have made mistakes, but understanding each others WORTH in God helped us understand His worth to us and ours to one another.

This is beginning of what it means to Worship Him in Spirit and Truth. It is WORTH SHIP for who HE IS and not just for what He has done! Many believers think they worship in Spirit and Truth by playing a Christian CD or go to a worship service. Worship IS NOT AN ACT FIRST, it is a HEART TO HEART ENCOUNTER! Our present day services don't make or allow time for us to do this. We often have a worship service instead of true and genuine worship with the Lord. We choose a number of songs that prepare us to hear the message that we think will please God. Just think about that for a moment. How would you feel if someone did that to you while you were in their midst? They would sing about what you did for 3 songs, then 3 more about loving you, and then they turn to the announcements, and preach a message as if you weren't there anymore. Would that really speak of your WORTH? No, and it does not for the Lord who is in our midst either.

Our heart must change concerning the Lord's WORTH. In Revelations chapter 2 He warns the church of deserting Him as their first love. He gives a warning that He will come and remove the candlestick from their midst. This is the symbol of His presence with us. If we don't begin to fall truly in love with Him as our first love, we won't ever know His worth and His presence will lift. It already has lifted in many churches today because they refuse to love Him first. We can't love evangelism first, ministry or any other thing first. He alone must be our first love and this must be our first work in which everything else will flow.

Beloved reader, please pray that the Lord would teach you of His worth for who He is. That we would understand each others worth as He has made us to be. For only in this can we find the unity of the Holy Spirit. Let your prayer be: Dear Lord, help me to love and know you beyond my human reason. Help me



to love you for who you really are and understand your true worth. Let me love my brothers and sisters in this same way. God will surely bring you into the depth of His heart.