

Bless the Lord

5-7-17

3. Love Responding to Love John 4:23-24

A. Worship Defined

1. We are commanded to praise the Lord, this is clear in scripture; worship is love responding to love, it cannot function out of a command, but by a willing response to love **(1 John 4:19)**
2. the renewed relationship with God is what forms the basis of our loving response to God; this does not deny human emotions in worship, but they are not the controlling factors
3. Worship is the highest form of prayer. It is not asking the Lord for anything nor is it thanking the Lord for something, worship is simply loving the Lord for Who He is
4. Worship defined: Hebrew: to bow low, to prostrate yourself; a reverence and love for the Lord; OT shachah (172x) bow down, fall down, prostrate – worship is an attitude expressed; the magnitude of the attitude determines the measure of the actions; Greek: NT proskuneo (59x) pros – face to face; kuneo – to kiss; to kiss the face or the hand of One who is loved
5. Worship in some form 270x in Word; worship is a main theme of the Bible (Cornwall)
 - a. **(Hebrews 1:6 S1)** angels; **(Psalm 86.9 S2)** nations; **(Psalm 99:5 S3)** all men

B. John 4:23-24

1. **v23** ‘the hour is coming and now is’ that is today; the old dispensation (OT) was about to pass away and the new one (NT) commence
 - a. ‘true worshippers’ All who truly and sincerely worship God. They who do it with their spirit, and not merely in form; there must be false worshippers – sincere, wrong; phony
 - ‘In spirit’ "spirit" real you; opposed to Samaritan superstitions and Jewish rites and ceremonies, the pomp of external worship; religious acts; it’s not our ‘outer man’
 - ‘truth’ Word of God inspired and instructed
 - ‘Father is seeking...’ **(Revelation 4:11 S4)** created for His glory (worship); **(Isaiah 43:7 S5)** we were created to bring Him glory; Jesus tells us we are to worship Almighty God as Father; woman ‘our father Jacob (v12); our fathers worship (v20); Jesus changes the emphasis from natural fathers to the heavenly Father
 - Jesus is pointing out that the Father has spiritual children. Having children is what makes one a father. We become God’s children through believing in Jesus

- we were not created only to serve Him (though we do) – angels do this; created to love God and have fellowship with Him; like any father would desire the love and fellowship of His children, God does too

2. **v24** ‘those who worship Him’ this is a decision that you make

- Psalm 34:1** A worshipper overrules his feelings; we can, the Lord is always worthy and worship blesses us; ‘bless’ to kneel, adoration; we must stir up our spirit to worship Him
 - **(I Corinthians 9:27 S6)** Do not allow yourself to be sidetracked; your priorities?
- ‘must worship’ worship is a vital commitment & sincere desire, more than a command
- ‘spirit and truth’ together; spirit no truth, worship false gods; truth no spirit legalistic,

3. **‘spirit’** we must worship God out of our spirit – not soul/mind – ‘God is Spirit’ our Born Again spirit contacts Him

- v20** God has a way in which He desires to be worshipped; the Samaritans thought God was to be worshipped on Mt. Gerizim and the Jews thought He was to be worshipped in the temple in Jerusalem (where His presence dwelt – OT; Jewish males had to go to Jerusalem 3 times a year to worship at feasts); **you can worship the Lord anywhere**
- ‘spirit – BA spirit alive; where the Holy Spirit dwells so that we can worship Him anywhere. His love is in our spirit. Our mind and body can worship as well

v24.....Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration." Message

- God is spirit and is not confined to things, idol worship then becomes an insult
- God is spirit and man’s ‘offerings’ must be offerings out of the spirit; animal sacrifices and all man made things are inadequate
- The important question is not where people worship God, but how they worship Him
- Some Christians make the same mistake as the Samaritan woman, imagining that one cannot worship God properly unless they worship with them

4. **‘truth’** the other requirement of worship is truth **(John 17:17)** God’s Word is truth; our spirit is to worship Him on the basis of truth; Who the Word tells you He is and what He has done

- once BA and our spirit is alive unto God we can worship the Lord out of our spirit as the Holy Spirit prompts

4. **(John 3:16-17)** God’s love for us and His redemption through Jesus is the basis of our worship of Him **(I Jn 4:19)** **we love Him because He first loved us**

- true worship is possible and prompted by love based on the atonement provided at Calvary; because of Jesus’ sacrifice, we are sons of God