

Well here we are! We've made it to the final week of our "What is Worship" series. I really hope that this has been a help to you. Our goal and our mission as God's people can be summed up in this word : worship. So it's vital that we understand that word and that we rightly live it out in our lives both individually and together.

Raise your hand if you were here last week. Share some things that were helpful for you.

Well last week we spent our time together answering the questions **Why do we gather, and what do we do when we gather?**

Tonight we're going to finish off our series by talking about what happens when we worship? What happens when we worship? Then I'll share a handful of helpful tips that each of us can apply when we come to worship together.

That's where we're headed tonight, but before we do that, let's open up with a word of prayer. **Pray with me.**

I don't know about you, but whenever I'm working on something I want to see the end result.

How many of us have ever put together a puzzle? When you get to work on a puzzle, it's helpful to keep the box available so you can see what the end result is of what you're working on. When you're fed up with those little puzzle pieces and you don't know if you'll ever get to the end, it's encouraging and helpful to look at that beautiful picture of mountains or cats or whatever it is... and see what all of this is about.

Well, I think the same is true for us in worship. We can come here each week and do our thing but when we get frustrated or when it gets dry or we get tired, it's helpful to remind ourselves of the end result of worship.

So... when we truly worship as God desires, what is the end result? What's the picture on the puzzle box that we're shooting for here?

Wayne Grudem is a professor at Phoenix seminary and he wrote this giant book on Systematic Theology - he wrote 4 results of worship and I've added 3 of my own to his 4 which gives us 7 total.

So here we go... 7 results of genuine worship- and I'm going to make a promise to you tonight - we're going to work our way through this quickly, OK? Last week I lost track of time and I'm sorry about that - I want to respect your time here - I just get so excited about this!

The first four are from Grudem:

1. **We delight in God**

Ps. 16:11 - "In your presence there is fullness of joy, in your right hand are pleasures forevermore"

So when we truly worship, what is the result? We enjoy God. **The goal of worship is not just to enjoy the act of worshipping but to enjoy the God that we worship.** Remember from our earlier discussion - true worship is the overflow of a **heart** that loves God.

1. **God delights in us**

What is God doing when we worship? Well, when we worship according to his instructions, he enjoys it. He receives it. We shouldn't have a view of God as distant, cold, disinterested. **He made us to worship him, and he takes great delight when we do so.**

It may be tempting for you to think that nothing you do is good enough for God, and in one sense, you're right about that. Everything we do, even in worship, is tainted with sin. We are imperfect, but when we come to God and worship in the name of Christ, our worship is received with great delight.

Sometimes Cobb, my oldest son, will give me a card or a picture. Typically, it's not an artistic masterpiece, but I receive it with joy because it's coming from my son.

1. **We draw near to God**

This is similar to what we've already mentioned, but when we truly worship we draw near to God. Worship is coming into the presence of God to give him praise.

This is true for every single relationship that you and I have - when you spend time with someone, you get to know them, you draw near to them. When you stop talking with someone and drift away from each other, you get to a point where you feel like you don't know them at all!

So in worship we draw near to God - think about how glorious that is!

But is this a one-way relationship? No! It's not! When we draw near to God, guess what happens?

1. **God draws near to us**

James 4:8 - draw near to God and he will draw near to you

Now, we are about to leave Grudem, but I want to make a point here real quick. James says when we draw near to God, God will draw near to you.

So do we need to wait until we feel like it to come and worship God?

Should we wait until we feel close to God to worship him?

No! The fact is, most of the time we are running on empty! It's when we come into the presence of God and worship Him that he meets with us, which makes us want to worship him even more! Don't wait until you feel like it to worship!

I'll connect this to singing in church - should we wait until we feel like it to sing songs of praise to God? Well, no, we're instructed to sing and remember from last week, singing is a primary way we learn about God and encourage one another, so we sing! And as we do, God will change our hearts to love him more.

Which brings us to our next two results...

Ok, leaving Grudem...

1. **We are changed**

Worship is transformative. It changes us.

- Important Biblical Principle to write down: **We become what we worship**

The bible draws out this principle when it talks about the worship of idols:

Idols:

- 2 Kings 17:5
- Psalm 115:4-8

What about our idols? I'm guessing none of us bow down and worship images or statues, but do we still have our idols?

Yes, of course! And what we need to realize is that when anything occupies the affections of our heart in place of God, then when we are worshipping! And that object of our worship is transforming us to become more like it - or him - or her - or whatever it is.

But guess what happens when we worship God? We become more like God.

2 Cor. 3:18 - And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

In other words, we become what we behold.

When we gather as a body to worship, all beholding the Lord together, then we as a church will be changed to become more like Him together.

Any questions here before moving to our last two results of true worship?

1. The world is changed

How is the world changed by the church's worship?

- **Nonbelievers in our midst**
 - The Gospel is proclaimed in our service - if there are any nonbelievers present, it's our desire that they hear the gospel clearly expressed in such a way that the Lord could use it to lead them to respond in faith.
- **What about our prayers as a church** - how do they change the world?
 - When we pray, we pray for our church, we pray for the ministry of other church's in the area, we pray for particular members of our church, we pray for our governing authorities, we pray for certain issues and events going on in the world - and when we pray, God listens and he acts on the prayers of his saints. So our prayers change the world around us.
- **Our corporate worship fuels us for the week to come** - so what goes on in this place lingers and works its way into our daily lives. As we apply what we've learned from God's word here, it changes the way we live out in the world, and the world is changed by that.

1. In All of This, God Is Glorified

1. **Ultimate end of worship - the glory of God.**

- The whole point of worship is that God would receive glory.

In other words, for all the benefits and good outcomes of true worship for us, the best news of all is that it is not ultimately about us. Worship is about the glory of God.

Why do we worship? We worship because God is worthy of our worship. He is great and glorious, and our worship brings him the glory that is due his name.

- Isa. 43:6-7 - "everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made"
- Eph. 1:12 - "we who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory"

SO, those are 7 results of true worship. **Any questions on any of these 7?**

Helpful Tips:

So as we close out this series I want to just make this very practical for us. I recently saw an article written by a Pastor named Jamie Dunlop, that had a list of applications for how to worship well when we come together. So these are his, not mine, but I heartily agree.

This is a list of applications that every single one of us in this room can and should commit to. And I want to ask all of you to commit to doing these things both for your own good and growth in Christlikeness, for the good of your brothers and sisters, for the good of the world around you, and ultimately for the glory of God.

So here we go, and what I want us to do is read this aloud together and commit in your heart to do these things.

- Regularly attend the services
- Sing joyfully and loudly
- Discuss the sermon after the service
- Express joy to each other during the service
- Welcome those around you who are unfamiliar
- Be attentive; take notes during the sermon
- Foster a culture of prayerfulness
- (from <https://www.9marks.org/article/class-xii-worship/> Jamie Dunlop)