

The One I Love:

Engaging with God in Worship (& Celebration)

with Stephen Hartwell

Outline of Our Session:

- Defining what we mean by Worship
- Identifying a Biblical Framework for Worship
- Thinking of Practical Ways of engaging with God in Worship

Exercise 1: Defining Worship

What are some of your favourite worship songs?

What are some of the common themes?

What are the most often repeated words?

How do you feel when you are listening to and/or singing them?

Why do you enjoy them?

Worship is...

1) Adoration

(e.g. **Beautiful One**)

2) Submission

(e.g. **I Will Offer up my Life**)

3) Intimate

(e.g. **What a Friend I've Found**)

4) Devotion

(e.g. **Knowing You**)

5) For the Broken

(e.g. **I Stand Amazed**)

Worship is...

- 6) Fuel for Mission
(e.g. **God of Justice**)
- 7) Cross-Focused
(e.g. **In Christ Alone**)
- 8) Full of Emotion
(e.g. **Psalms 42 & 23**)
- 9) Unashamed
(e.g. **Undignified**)
- 10) For the Glory of God
(e.g. **Heart of Worship**)

Exercise 2: Our Worship

What are the **opportunities** you have to engage with God in worship outside of your regular church services, either alone or with others?

What **challenges** do you face when trying to make space in your day-to-day lives to engage with God in worship?

Are there any of the **10 aspects of worship** that you want to engage with more in your worship?

Biblical Framework for Worship

Worshipping in Spirit and Truth

*²¹“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³Yet a time is coming and has now come when **the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth**, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and **his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.**”*

John 4:21-24

Worshipping in Spirit and Truth

Spirit = God's Presence

Truth = God's Word

In the Old Testament:

Presence = Ark of the Covenant

Word = 10 Commandments

In the New Testament:

Presence = Holy Spirit

Word = Jesus

New Testament Worship

“In view of God’s Mercy, offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of Worship.”

Romans 12:1

“Speak to one another with Psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit”

Ephesians 5:19

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.”

Colossians 3:16

Worship in the Psalms

“¹Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. ²Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. ³Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, ⁴praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, ⁵praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. ⁶Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.”

Psalm 150

How Valuable is the One I Love?

Example from Jesus' Parables:

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

Matthew 13:44-46

The Challenge of Idols

An Encounter with Jesus

“²¹Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” ²²When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. ²³Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 19:21-23

Exercise 3: Expressions of Worship

Take 2-3 of the 7 expressions of our worship listed below and look at the associated passages

Discuss what the passages say about these expressions?

Identify how you could utilise these expressions in your day-to-day engagement with God in Worship

Senses – Psalm 121:1-8 / Romans 1:20

Bodies – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Minds – Psalm 1

Emotions – Psalms 98 / 100

Hearts – Psalm 86:12

Creativity – Genesis 1: 26-27

Voices – Psalm 47: 1

Conclusion: Worship His Holy Name

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
**For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find**

So bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Bless you, Lord

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
**Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore
Forevermore**

Matt Redman's **10,000 Reasons**