

Why Worship God?

Presented in this article is a reason for worshipping God that may not have been considered before.

The Handbook For Life, the Christian Bible, reverberates with invitations to worship God, who is worthy to be praised.

God calls all human beings throughout scripture to adore and give glory to Him for all He is and all He has done for humanity.

From the beginning of human history, as recorded in the Christian Bible, God emphasised that loving Him is the most important element of worship.

Sacrifice alone is insufficient, for God desires a humble heart.

John 4:23-24 [NIV] *“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.”*

The Samaritan woman brought up a popular theological issue, the correct place of worship. Jesus directed the conversation to a far more important point.

The location of worship is **not** nearly as important as the attitude of the worshipper.

God is spirit, He is **not** limited as a human being to one place.

It is **not** where we worship but how we worship that is important.

Worship in spirit.

The question asked by the Samaritan woman expecting an answer, yes or no, was based on the “*tree of the knowledge of good and evil*”, the law, which leads only to death.

Jesus answered the question by pointing to Himself as the “*tree of life*” that leads to eternal life. The Pharisees also asked similar questions based on law **not** spirit. [**John 8:4-11; John 9:2-3**]

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, **this is your spiritual act of worship.**”*

Under the Old Covenant sacrifice was important, but even then God made it clear that humble obedience was much more important to Him.

Under the present New Covenant, made by Jesus Christ just before His death which ratified this New Covenant, we are to offer ourselves as a sacrifice **not** an animal as a substitute.

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” meaning the whole body, mind and spirit.

We worship God in all three realms of our life.

Body:- Physically humble ourselves before God on our knees, giving homage, and bowing our head giving humble submission.

Mind:- The desire to worship comes from our personal understanding of what God has done for us through the life, death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ, the Son of Man.

We are humbled in our minds by realising that without this sacrifice of Jesus Christ we have **no** hope of salvation.

Spirit:- Job 32:8 [NIV] *“But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.”*

It is through the spirit within us that makes us human, not just another animal, that we have contact with the spirit realm in which God dwells.

Romans 8:26 [NIV] *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** with groans that words cannot express.”*

The Holy Spirit will assist us in our prayers which are part of worship.

Ephesians 4:2-6 [NIV] *“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit** through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”*

The Holy Spirit brings unity to any group of people.

Worship in truth.

As we have seen true worship for God is based on loving gratitude for what He has done for us.

1 John 4:19 [NIV] *“We love because he first loved us.”*

It is the love that God has shown us through Jesus Christ that draws us to love Him for who He is.

1 John 4:20-21 [NIV] *“If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”*

The sincerity of our love for God is shown in our love for other human beings.

1 Peter 1:22-23 [NIV] *“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, **love one another deeply, from the heart.** For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.”*

A deep love that comes from the heart.

The heart being the driving force of our life. A love that is based on God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and Jesus Christ who is the truth personified.

John 14:6 [NIV] *“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”*

What then is the logical outcome of all people worshipping the one true God in spirit and in truth?

All of the world’s relationship problems would be solved.

No more wars, all the vast sums of money and effort put into making weapons of war could be re-directed into dealing with poverty.

Romans 13:10 [NIV] *“Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.”*

No more crime, hatred and envy, broken marriages, abused children or elderly.

Worship of God leads to peace and prosperity.