

For many Christians
worship is a duty.

- it's too much
about the method
or mood and not
enough about the
object or motive!



THE WORSHIP POLICE

- are not so
concerned about
worshiping as
they are about
criticizing how
others do it!

IT'S TOO DEAD!
It's too emotional!
It's too casual
and loud!
It's too extravagant
and wasteful!
**The people are
too weird!**
It's too
liturgical
and formal

Mark 14

“1 Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread was two days off; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth, and kill Him; 2 for they were saying, “Not during the festival, lest there be a riot of the people.”

3 And while He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head. 4 But some were indignantly remarking to one another, “Why has this perfume been wasted? 5 For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they were scolding her. 6 But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me. 7 For the poor you always have with you, and whenever you wish, you can do them good; but you do not always have Me. 8 She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial. 9 And truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, that also which this woman has done shall be spoken of in memory of her.”

10 And Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests, in order to betray Him to them. 11 And they were glad when they heard this, and promised to give him money. And he began seeking how to betray Him at an opportune time.”

Mark 14

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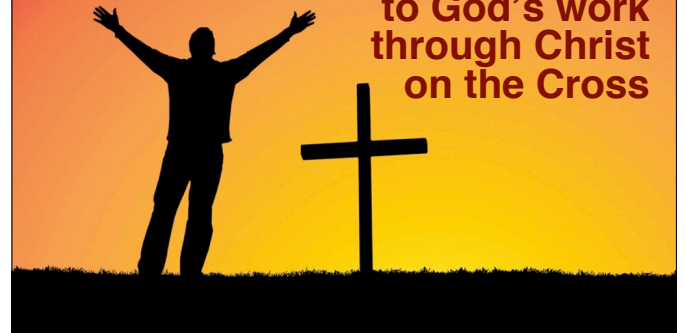
The priority of worship

"Let her alone; why do you bother her?"

- ✓ Anointing of Jesus' head. Mark 14:1-11 (worship vs. **charity**)
- ✓ Sitting at Jesus' feet. Luke 10:38-41 (worship vs. **service**)
- ✓ Anointing Jesus' feet. Luke 7:36-50 (worship vs. **justice**)
- ✓ Failing to fast. Mark 2:18-20 (worship vs. **religious tradition**)

Christian worship

is a first response to God's work through Christ on the Cross



Christ is unique in that he came for the purpose of dying.

Worship is focused on the Cross & Christ



Christians are asked to die with Jesus in baptism.

Worship is focused on the Cross & Christ



Christianity celebrates the death of its Leader

Worship is focused on the Cross & Christ



Biblical Christianity is not centered on:



- ✓ Personal moral reform
- ✓ Social / political renewal
- ✓ Inner spiritual experience
- ✓ External rules of behavior
- ✓ Utopian material blessing

*The issue is
reconciliation with God*

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

“All this is from God, who **reconciled** us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, that God **was reconciling** the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them”

*The issue is
reconciliation with God
through the Cross of Christ*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

Romans 12

“1 I urge you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God,

God’s work

to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.



Worship



... 6 And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”



Our work



Christian worship

is a first
response
to God’s work
through Christ
on the Cross
but not
the only
response.



Christian worship

follows God’s
work and
precedes
ours.



How are Christians distinct in the world?

- ✓ They exist to respond in awe and gratitude to the grace of God in the Cross of Christ.
- ✓ They respond not only to human suffering but also to God's suffering.
- ✓ Their ministry is a worship response to God's work.

Some personal implications

- ✓ Embrace, install, and celebrate the grace of God in the Gospel.
- ✓ Keep private and corporate worship God-centered not man-centered.
- ✓ Bring the spirit of (Sabbath) rest & worship to your life.
 - Cultivate an attitude of gratitude.
 - Stop the worship wars.
 - As a Gospel person offer your best in worship.

How can a congregation inspire worship?

- ✓ Reminding disciples of the love and grace of God in the face of the sin of man.
- ✓ Have staff that model awe and gratitude in leading worship.
- ✓ Supply music, art, and structure that enhance:
 - the love and grace of God in Christ
 - awe, humility, and reverence
 - a natural expression of the human soul

**Example
of Jesus being IN but not OF
the world.**

**A disciples' first response to
God's work is worship that
motivates service.**