

Why Bother To Worship The Creator God?

To worship is to recognise the worth of whatever we worship.

If people won't worship God they often worship other people or things.

They worship sports or pop stars, even their husband or wife, cars or their home.

Idolatry (worshipping anything other than our Creator God) is far from finished in society.

God's Holy Christian Bible, warns very strongly against idolatry. The First Commandment is about loving and worshipping God only and not committing idolatry.

Exodus 20:3-6 [NIV] *"You shall have no other gods before me. 'You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments."*

Jesus calls it the first and greatest commandment.

Matthew 22:37-38 [NIV] *"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment."*

Why?

Man is emerging from an age in which only material things are real. Computer technology is now so advanced that things "unseen" are being harnessed for practical use.

In the new millennium to worship something "unseen" could become reasonable as the consequence of familiarity with high-tech computers.

Worship of God is to worship what is "real" for only God is eternal.

Everything else is temporal, like a fleeting shadow of what is "real."

God is Love [1 John 4:16] Love is **not** physical, so it is not temporal but eternal.

God has made us in order to have a relationship with us, a loving relationship.

Love is something that cannot exist in a vacuum, it must have an object to love.

Worship is a response of mind and heart towards the person of Jesus. The man outside of time who is God's Messenger of Love to every age of humanity.

True worship requires all that true love demands.

- a) High expectation
- b) Complete devotion
- c) Total focus on the object of that love, Jesus Christ

This involves something that many people are not good at – abandonment.

Letting go and allowing ourselves to be filled with loving wonder at the beauty and glory of God.

When we worship like this certain things will happen.

1 We will realise our worth as a Child of God

John 15:9-17 [NIV] *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.”*

Worshipping is our response to the Love of God for us and is an expression of our love for Him, as we tell of His worth.

2 Corinthians 3:4-5 [NIV] *“Such confidence as this is ours through Jesus Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.”*

Our confidence comes through the loving relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ.

2 We can be “at home” with the mystery of the unseen – which is faith

Hebrews 11:1 [NIV] *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”*

Man is a curious creature, unhappy until he knows secrets yet the greatest truths yet lie beyond our ability to know.

Our loving worshipful relationship with our Creator causes us not to worry about even admitting we don’t know the answers to many deep questions about life and faith.

With Paul we can claim:

1 Corinthians 2:2 [NIV] *“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”*

All Paul cared about was the relationship he had with God through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

3 Worship releases us to live

Worship of God is the most powerful agent for those who are trapped by fear and despair. Worship is a great stress reliever – a pressure valve.

Acts 16:22-26 [NIV] *“The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose.”*

A literal example of release as they worshipped God.

Isaiah 61:1 [NIV] *“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,”*

One of the things that Christ’s coming was going to bring. That’s worship and what it can bring us.

When we realise how good it is for us, we won’t be able to get enough of it!