

WE ARE MADE TO WORSHIP

PRECEPT

ROMANS 1:20-25

²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

PROMISE

Worship is what we do. It is who we are. Whether we admit it or not, we are worshippers. The question is, who or what are we worshipping? Worship in itself should only refer to God, but the sad reality is, we are worshipping someone or something in replacement of God in our lives. Anything that we exchange or replace God in our heart, schedule, priorities, and life is what we are worshipping. There are innumerable things in life that we worship in this modern day including material things, career/education, physical appearance, entertainment, technology, fame/influence, comfort, and even our own family and children.

Worship is life; it's not just part of life, it's not just a day in a week, not just one song in our playlists, but it is everything we have. The word "worship" is from Old English "worth-ship," ascribing of the highest worth. So whatever we value or love the most—whatever is our greatest source of significance and security—we are worshipping that thing or person in our heart. The real question is, what or who do we value most in life; what is the reason we wake up every morning; or what or who is our motivation in life? Does it reflect on the way we dress, the way we speak, the way we perceive things?

Worship is our proper response to God for who He is and what He has done, expressed by how we live our lives. This is what true worship is. It is all about God, He must be our everything and must be the most important person in our lives. If we replace God in our hearts, then we worship something or someone else in our lives.

WE MUST EXCHANGE ALL OUR IDOLS FOR THE GLORY OF THE ONE TRUE GOD. Romans 1:23 says, "*They exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images that look like mortal humans: birds, animals, and reptiles.*" The material things, career/education, and anything else that takes the place of God in our life, anything that becomes more important than Him, is an idol. The truth is we are made to worship, that is in our innate nature. We follow something else or someone else whether we like it or not. Let us make sure that Jesus is the centre of our worship and reverse the sinful cycle of humanity.

WE MUST WORSHIP OUR CREATOR RATHER THAN THE CREATED THINGS IN LIFE. Romans 1:25 tells us, "*They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!*" The created things in life are temporary, only God is eternal and our relationship with Him will last forever. Let us worship Him with all that we are for He is worthy. Let us establish a lifestyle that worships Him every moment. A life of worship keeps God at the centre of everything we do. Our entire life should be lived as worship of God.

PRACTICE

1. What Worship Is. How can your life be lived as worship? How can you offer your life as a sacrifice to God?

2. Pleasing God in Worship. What is stopping you from fully worshipping God? How can we encourage and pray for you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Gospel

- May God empower us to live out His truth and spread the Word to all nations.

II. Pastors

- Pray that God may grant them courage, strength, and wisdom as they lead the flock.

III. Leaders

- Pray that they will lead with integrity, uphold justice, and foster unity among all.

IV. Disciples

- Thank God for calling us to follow Him as disciples. Pray for wisdom to walk in His ways.

V. Church

- Pray that the church will be an ambassador of God's love and grace to all.

VI. Members

- Pray for the spiritual maturity of each of our members.

VII. Community

- Pray for our community to know Christ fully and deeply.