

“We have put this music on the living and holy Word of God in order to sing, praise, and honor it. We want the beautiful art of music to be properly used to serve her dear Creator and His Christians. He is thereby praised and honored and we are made better and stronger in faith when His holy Word is impressed on our hearts by sweet music.”

Martin Luther, 1542

Rev. 5:11, “Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,

Rev. 5:12, “saying [singing**] with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive **THE** power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing’.”**

Rev. 5:13, “And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying [singing**], ‘To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever’.”**

Rev. 5:14, “And the four living creatures kept saying [singing**], ‘Amen.’ And the elders fell down and worshiped.”**

The Doctrine of Biblical Worship

1. Hebrew and Greek words for worship

**dAbD0(`abad), work, be worked,
work, serve, reduce to servitude,
worship, be made to serve,
burden, cultivate, plowed**

- **Gen. 2:15, “Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend [‘work, serve’] and keep it.”**

Deuteronomy 6:13, “You shall fear the LORD your God and serve [NASB: ‘worship’] Him, and shall take oaths in His name.”

hwDj (**hawa II**), *hishtaphel* only;

“worship, bow (down), make/do obeisance”

The *hisht.* form occurs 170x

1. The verb always refers to an action/attitude directed toward a human or divine figure who is recognized (appropriately or inappropriately) as being in a position of honor or authority. Depending on the figure and the situation, it may be a gesture of greeting, respect, submission, or worship.

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Genesis 22:5, “And Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you’.”

Genesis 24:26, “Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the LORD.”

Genesis 24:48, “And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son.”

proskunew *proskyneō* “to kiss, adore, throw a kiss in respect of someone; to worship, prostrate oneself before a superior.”

59x in the NT; 24x in Rev.

latreia, *latreía*; serving or worshipping God

Romans 12:1, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*”

2. To submit or subordinate my opinions, preferences, thoughts, philosophy of life, finances, politics, emotions, relationships, attitudes, actions, time, priorities to the authority of God's Word. Thus worship is a complex idea which involves a number of aspects, from private prayer to public expressions of thanks and the singing of hymns which reinforce and reflect on God, His Person and Works; also includes bringing sacrifices and gifts to personal Christian service. Worship can be both individual and corporate. We may sometimes be emotionally stimulated by worship, but that is not worship, only a by-product.

Worship is what we do in church.
Worship is experiencing God.
Worship is feeling God's presence.
Worship is singing to God.
Worship is praising God.
Worship is making an offering to God.
Worship is a form of prayer.
Worship is love.
Worship is engaging with God.
Worship is serving God.
Worship is devotion to God.
Worship is ascribing worth to God.

3. Two broad categories of worship: corporate and individual.