WORSHIP

Core Value #4: WORSHIP

We believe that the Father is seeking worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and truth, and these are the type of worshipers we want to be. Becoming worshipers corporately and individually means that as we are continually transformed into the likeness, we respond by reflecting God's Glory. As image-bearers recreated as sons of God, the only appropriate response is grateful worship of who God is and what he has done for us in Jesus. We want the worship of God to characterize our services and our lifestyles. (Ephesians 1:11-14; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 33:1; Psalm 150)

Living a Life of Worship as a Christian - A Biblical Vision for the Modern Church

A life of worship unfolds in four major dimensions:

1. Worship rooted in identity and salvation
2. Worship expressed through everyday living
3. Worship overflowing in joyful praise
4. Worship practiced corporately as God's people

1. Worship Begins with Identity in Christ

Ephesians 1:11–14 — Worship as Response to Salvation

Paul repeatedly says believers exist:

"to the praise of His glory."

Worship starts not with what we do, but with **who we are**.

What This Passage Teaches

Believers are:

- Chosen in Christ
- Redeemed through His work
- Sealed with the Holy Spirit
- Given an eternal inheritance

Worship is therefore a response to grace already given. The Holy Spirit becomes the internal witness that moves believers toward praise and gratitude.

Early Church Example

Early Christians worshiped despite persecution because worship flowed from identity, not circumstance. Their gatherings centered on remembering Christ's saving work through:

- Scripture reading
- Communion
- Prayer
- Songs about Christ's victory

Modern Church Application

Living a life of worship today means:

- Seeing worship as gratitude for salvation
- Grounding identity in Christ rather than achievement
- Allowing awe of grace to shape daily attitudes

Worship begins when identity shifts from self-centered to Christ-centered.

2. Worship Extends Into Every Part of Life

1 Corinthians 10:31 — Worship as Daily Living

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Paul removes the sacred/secular divide.

Biblical Insight

Worship is not confined to church activities. Ordinary actions become worship when oriented toward God's glory.

This includes:

- Work
- Family life
- Rest
- Conversations
- Service to others

Early Church Practice

Because Christians lacked church buildings for centuries, worship naturally extended into everyday life:

- Homes became worship spaces
- Workplaces became mission fields
- Meals became sacred moments of gratitude

Faith was integrated into daily rhythms.

Modern Church Application

A worshipful life looks like:

- Integrity at work
- Parenting as discipleship
- Serving others as service to Christ
- Gratitude shaping daily decisions

Worship is not an event you attend but a life you live.

3. Worship Overflows in Joyful Praise

Psalm 33:1 — Joyful Expression

"Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him."

Psalm 150 — Worship With Everything

Psalm 150 calls for praise through:

- Music
- Instruments
- Movement
- Celebration
- Breath itself

The Psalms teach that worship engages the **whole person** — emotions, body, creativity, and voice.

Biblical Principle

Joyful expression is not emotional excess; it is a fitting response to God's greatness.
Praise acknowledges:

- God's power
- God's faithfulness
- God's ongoing activity

Early Church Worship

Early Christians sang regularly:

- Hymns about Christ (Philippians 2 likely preserves one)
- Psalms inherited from Jewish worship
- Songs celebrating resurrection hope

Even imprisoned believers sang (Acts 16).

Modern Church Application

Living a worshipful life includes:

- Singing as participation, not performance
- Freedom of expression across personalities and cultures
- Joy rooted in truth rather than circumstance

Praise trains the heart to recognize God's goodness.

4. Worship Happens in Community, Not Isolation

The early Church shows worship was deeply communal.

Early Church Gatherings Included

- Apostolic teaching
- Shared meals and communion
- Corporate prayer
- Singing and praise
- Giving to meet needs (Acts 2:42–47)

Worship formed a shared identity as God's people.

Why Community Matters
Corporate worship:

- Reminds believers they belong
- Strengthens faith through shared encouragement
- Displays unity to the world

Modern Church Application
A life of worship includes:

- Faithful participation in gathered worship
- Encouraging others through presence and engagement
- Viewing church gatherings as formation, not consumption

Worship is both personal devotion and communal declaration.

5. The Early Church Model of Worship

The first Christians practiced worship that was:

Dimension	Early Church Expression	Modern Application
Identity	Praise for salvation	Gospel-centered identity
Lifestyle	Faith integrated into daily life	Work and home as worship
Praise	Psalms, hymns, joyful singing	Expressive worship gatherings
Community	House church gatherings	Participatory corporate worship

Their worship was powerful because it was **holistic**, not compartmentalized.

6. What Living a Life of Worship Looks Like Practically Today

Daily Practices

- Gratitude in ordinary moments
- Prayer throughout the day
- Aligning choices with God's glory

Inner Posture

- Humility before God
- Awe and reverence
- Trust during suffering

Corporate Expression

- Active participation in singing and prayer
- Generosity as worship
- Serving the church body

Missional Impact
A worshipful life becomes a witness:

- Joy that stands out in hardship
- Integrity that reflects God's character
- Hope that attracts others to Christ

Worship: A Complete Biblical Picture

Scripture	Aspect of Worship
Ephesians 1:11–14	Worship flows from salvation identity
1 Corinthians 10:31	Worship includes all of life
Psalm 33:1	Worship expresses joyful praise
Psalm 150	Worship engages the whole person
Early Church	Worship forms community and mission

A Simple Biblical Definition

To live a life of worship is to respond to God's saving grace by orienting every part of life — heart, actions, joy, and community — toward His glory.