

ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Greg Stiekas, Pastor, Bethany Bible Church

Introduction: So What's the Big Deal?

June 1, 2014

Bombarded with so many varying views and attitudes about the church's worship, its format and music and style, it is easy for us to become apathetic about this important area of our Christian walk. "Why bother?" we wonder, and resign to our own opinion. If we take a closer look, however, we will realize that the issue of how we worship is of great significance and deserves our attention for at least three important reasons:

1. Because we must beware the cultural _____ which created contemporary worship.

A. The Rise of _____.

Individualism = "the tendency to value the _____ over the _____, thus giving priority to personal goals over group goals."¹

B. The Decentralization of _____.

C. The Deprecation of _____.

D. The Inundation of _____.

Two warnings:

(1) Social media is largely _____.

(2) Social media tends to be _____ and _____.

E. A Focus on the _____.

F. The Exaltation of the _____ Rather than _____.

G. The Philosophy of _____.

2. Because God _____ to worship.

Genesis 2:7-8

God formed Adam and _____ him in the garden.

Genesis 2:15

Adam's primary purpose in the garden was _____.
(Cf. Num 3:5-8; Exod 8:1; Lev 26:11-13)

John 4:23

God is not simply saving us to be _____, he's saving us to be _____ (cf. 2 Cor 5:17).

3. Because God *himself* cares how we worship.

Hebrews 12:28.

Let us worship God _____.

"Acceptably" is an _____; adverbs tell us _____ an action is done, or the _____ in which it is done.

God cares about that!

¹Harry C. Triandis, "The Self and Social Behavior in Differing Cultural Contexts," *Psychological Review* 96:3 (1989): 507.

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1. Because we must beware the cultural trends which created contemporary worship.

A. The Rise of Western Individualism.

Individualism = "the tendency to value the individual over the group, thus giving priority to personal goals over group goals."²

B. The Decentralization of the Local Church

C. The Deprecation of Church Authority

D. The Inundation of Social Media

Two warnings:

(1) Social media is largely unaccountable.

(2) Social media tends to be irresponsible and immoral.

E. A Focus on the Individual Worshipper

F. The Exaltation of the Worshipper Rather than God

G. The Philosophy of Postmodernism.

2. Because God created us to worship.

Genesis 2:7–8

God formed Adam and placed him in the garden.

Genesis 2:15

Adam's purpose in the garden was worship.

(Cf. Num 3:5–8; Exod 8:1; Lev 26:11–13)

John 4:23

God is not simply saving us to be Christians, he's saving us to be worshippers (cf. 2 Cor 5:17).

3. Because God *himself* cares how we worship.

Hebrews 12:28.

Let us worship God ACCEPTABLY.

"Acceptably" is an adverb; adverbs tell us *how* an action is done.

²Harry C. Triandis, "The Self and Social Behavior in Differing Cultural Contexts," *Psychological Review* 96:3 (1989): 507.