

Oxford Baptist Church – January 3, 2016
Pastor Robin W. Pifer
Nehemiah Series – Building to Transform
Nehemiah 12 – The Priority of Worship

Our Main Purpose: Celebrate, Thank, Praise and Serve the Lord.

Definition of Worship – Worship is honour and adoration directed to God. Worship is ascribing to God his worth, stating and affirming His Supreme Value.

Christ-Centred Worship results in a Christ- Centred and Spirit-empowered Lifestyle.

Westminster Catechism – “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever”.

Four Kinds of unacceptable worship in the Bible

- 1) The Worship of false gods. (Created things)
(Isaiah 48:11; Exodus 34:14; Deut 6:13; Romans 1:21-32)

Hebrews 12:28, 29 - Worship of the Lord is a whole life experience.
(Romans 12:1-2; Heb 13:15-17; Eph 5:8-10; 1Cor 10:31)

- 2) Worship of the true God in a wrong form. (gods of gold)
(Exodus 32:7-9)
- 3) Worship of the true God in a self-styled or selfish manner.
(obeying self not obeying the Lord) (1Sam 13:8-14)
- 4) Worship of the true God in the right way with a wrong attitude. (left overs) (Malachi 1:7-10)

Nehemiah 12

Celebrate Joyfully. v. 27-29

Confession for Cleansing. v. 30

Community of Diverse Worship and Service devoted to the Lord.
v. 31-47 (choirs, Instruments v. 27, Percussion, Service)

Components of Worship – Acts 2:42-47

- Word – Teaching, Study, Preaching
- Worship: Prayer and Praise
- Fellowship
- Service
- Outreach

Postures of Worship

- Stand in Awe – Habakkuk 3:2
- Clap and Lift your hands – Psalm 47:1; 134:2
- Kneel before the Lord – Psalm 95:6
- Bow Down – Psalm 22:7; Phil 2:9-11
- Dance/Move before the Lord – Psalm 149:3
- Lay flat before the Lord – 1Kings 18:39
- **Heart attitude – Hebrews 4:12; Matt 22:37**

Are you a true worshipper of Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit?

Life Group Questions

1. As you read through the verses tied to the four kinds of unacceptable worship what stands out to you about Biblical worship?
2. Why is worship to be Christ-centred rather than self-centred?
3. How is having a right heart attitude essential for the worship of the Lord?
4. As you look through scripture we see the variety of ways people worshipped the Lord. Why is this diversity important in our worship experience?
5. Worship is more than a church service on Sunday. Why is worship of the Lord to mark all areas of our life? What are some examples of this practically?
6. What component of worship relates to you strongly? Why should our worship involve all five components
7. What are some ways you can make the Lord's Day a more focused time for yourself and your family?

