

Worship Patterns and Growth

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Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they said: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and honor and glory and praise!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshipped.

Revelation 5:11-14

1. Worship defined

- a. Worship = "worthship", which "connotes actions motivated by an attitude that reveres, honors, or describes the worth of another person or object." (Martin, "Worship", ISBE Revised)
 - i. It is to give to God all the honor and glory that belongs to Him alone. This is the opposite of "idolatry."
 - ii. Two selected definitions:
 - (1) "Reverent devotion and service to God motivated by God's saving acts in history" "the dramatic celebration of God in His supreme worth in such a manner that His 'worthiness' becomes the norm and inspiration of human living" (Ibid.)
 - (2) "The intelligent, understanding worship, that is, the worship which is consonant with the truth of the Gospel, is indeed nothing less than the offering of one's whole self in the whole of one's concrete living, in one's inward thoughts, feelings and aspirations, but also in one's words and deeds." (Cranfield, Romans, p. 605)
- b. New Testament vocabulary for worship.
 - i. *Proskuneo* (προσκυνέω; 54 times): the act of bowing or falling down before God as an act of submission and deep reverence.

Matthew 2:2: Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Matthew 2:8: And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found [him], bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Matthew 2:11: And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 4:9: And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Matthew 8:2: And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

Matthew 9:18: While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.

Matthew 14:33: Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Matthew 15:25: Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

Matthew 18:26: The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have

patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Matthew 20:20: Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping [him], and desiring a certain thing of him.

Matthew 28:9: And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Matthew 28:17: And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

Mark 5:6: But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

Mark 15:19: And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing [their] knees worshipped him.

Luke 4:7: If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. 8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Luke 24:52: And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

John 4:20: Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. 21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.

John 9:38: And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

John 12:20: And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

Acts 7:43: Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.

Acts 8:27: And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

Acts 10:25: And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped [him].

Acts 24:11: Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem for to worship.

1 Corinthians 14:25: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on [his] face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

Hebrews 1:6: And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

Hebrews 11:21: By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, [leaning] upon the top of his staff.

Revelation 3:9: Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Revelation 4:10: The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Revelation 5:14: And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four [and] twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Revelation 7:11: And all the angels stood round about the throne, and [about] the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Revelation 9:20: And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Revelation 11:1: And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood,

saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

Revelation 11:16: And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

Revelation 13:4: And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who [is] like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Revelation 13:8: And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 13:12: And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Revelation 13:15: And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

Revelation 14:7: Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Revelation 14:9: And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Revelation 14:11: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Revelation 15:4: Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for [thou] only [art] holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Revelation 16:2: And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and [upon] them which worshipped his image.

Revelation 19:4: And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

Revelation 19:10: And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See [thou do it] not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 19:20: And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 20:4: And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 22:8: And I John saw these things, and heard [them]. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. 9 Then saith he unto me, See [thou do it] not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

- ii. *Sebomai* (σέβομαι; 10 times): literally "fear," it involves a deep reverence which stresses the feeling of awe (though the literal aspect of fear is not to be excluded).

Matthew 15:9 (Mark 7:7): But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the

commandments of men.

Acts 13:43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

Acts 13:50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard [us]: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Acts 17:4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

Acts 17:17 Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

Acts 18:7 And he departed thence, and entered into a certain [man's] house, named Justus, [one] that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue.

Acts 18:13 Saying, This [fellow] persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law.

Acts 19:27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

- iii. *Latreuo* (λατρεύω; 21 times): literally "service," this includes all of our good acts (which are seen as our service of worship to God, Rom. 15:27) and the ministry of the gospel (Rom. 15:26).

Matthew 4:10: Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Luke 1:74: That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

Luke 2:37: And she [was] a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served [God] with fastings and prayers night and day.

Luke 4:8: And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Acts 7:7: And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.

Acts 7:42: Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices [by the space of] forty years in the wilderness?

Acts 24:14: But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

Acts 26:7: Unto which [promise] our twelve tribes, instantly serving [God] day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.

Acts 27:23: For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

Romans 1:9: For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Romans 1:25: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Philippians 3:3: For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

2 Timothy 1:3: I thank God, whom I serve from [my] forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

Hebrews 8:5: Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was

admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, [that] thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

Hebrews 9:9: Which [was] a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

Hebrews 9:14: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 10:2: For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

Hebrews 12:28: Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Hebrews 13:10: We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

Revelation 7:15: Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

Revelation 22:3: And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

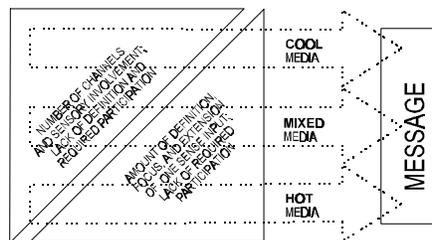
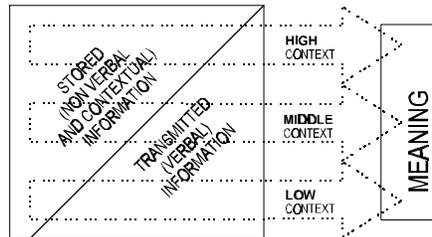
- c. Factors that are to be present in worship: (Tozer)
 - i. Boundless confidence in the God we trust and worship.
 - ii. Admiration or appreciation for the surpassing greatness and excellency of God.
 - iii. Fascination with the wonder of God and His magnitude.
 - iv. Adoration or love of God with our whole person.

2. Methods and forms in worship

- a. How are we to worship?
 - i. Our worship is directed towards God.
 - ii. Our worship is performed in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- b. What are the elements of public worship?

i. **Media:**

(General rule: The more sensory involvement, the cooler the medium)



	HOT MEDIA (Low Contextuality)	HOTTER ← → COOLER	COOL MEDIA (High Contextuality)
Description	"Hot" media extend "one single sense in 'high definition'. High definition is the state of being well filled with data." (Ibid., p. 36) "A 'hot' medium at one time seems to be one that does not maintain a sensory balance, at another, one that comes with the meaning relatively prefabricated and requiring as little imaginative effort as possible to leap from signs to a picture of reality." (Schramm and Porter, <u>Understanding Human Communication</u> , p. 117). They are thus low in respondent participation, as they provide all (or most) of what we need.		"Cool" media, on the other hand, provide only low definition--they have gaps and require the respondent to participate by filling those gaps. The greater the sensory involvement of the participant (in both quality and quantity of our senses), the cooler the media.
Aspects	Single sense extended High focus Uncertainty reduction High definition High methodology Low participation Control emotion/expression Provides knowledge, content, answers High order and structure		Sensory diffusion Multi-focus Tolerates ambiguity Low definition High relationships High involvement Free expression Provides presence, care-support Semi-planned; more spontaneous

	HOT MEDIA (Low Contextuality)	HOTTER ← → COOLER	COOL MEDIA (High Contextuality)
Examples	<p>Radio, which provides high audio definition and requires little participation.</p> <p>Pictures, which provide high visual definition, but nothing else.</p> <p>Phonetic writing, which provides all necessary oral/visual data for articulation.</p> <p>Public speaking, especially formal presentations with prepared speeches, which provide knowledge, content and answers</p>		<p>Cartoons, which are low in visual and verbal definition</p> <p>Conversation, which is high involvement and requires much of the listener (e.g., deciphering non-verbal communication)</p> <p>Hard rock concerts, which use many sensory channels with low definition in each channel.</p>
Dangers	<p>Overly propositional theology</p> <p>Cold orthodoxy</p> <p>Legalism</p> <p>Low ownership in worship and ministry</p> <p>God mediated by a few to the many</p> <p>Little individual influence and expression</p>		<p>Experience theology</p> <p>Clarity of Gospel diffused</p> <p>Absolutes become negotiable</p> <p>Authority breakdown; mine is equal to yours</p> <p>Nurture without content</p> <p>Whatever happens is of the Spirit</p>

- ii. **Time:** Public worship does not have to be confined to Sunday mornings--we are free to choose the day and the length of the time when we can worship without interruption.

- iii. **Venue:** It is not necessary to have a building, as long as there is an acceptable place to gather. God cares more for people than places or buildings!

- iv. **Word of God:** Central to worship is the Word of God by which He speaks to us. He does so both through public reading and sermons.

- v. **Prayer:** The form can vary from church to church, the fact of prayer is not an option.

- vi. **Praise and singing:** Choose music forms that have the most meaning to the people. Encourage some members of your church to begin writing songs to sing to the Lord.

- vii. **Offering:** This is our chance to respond to God's gift to us by giving towards His work. Our desire is to serve Him and enable His servants to further His work.

- viii. **Communion:** Our ongoing remembrance of what Christ has done on our behalf.