



Introduction

What is worship? Worship is a way of life; it is something that we as believers do with our whole lives and in every area of life (*1 Corinthians 10:31*). It is also a response to the revelation of God, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit. Our response: singing, prayer, thanksgiving, studying God's Word, and taking communion, reflecting on the gospel. We have two platforms of worship: corporate (*gathered*) and individual (*scattered*). We both give and receive in worship. Gathered worship is us giving praise to the Lord as well as receiving growth in the Lord together (*maturing in our faith*). The same goes for our scattered worship; we praise His name and grow more mature in our faith as we spend time with Him. (*Side note on giving and receiving*) We give God praise, thanks, and glory to him for his mercy and grace towards us in Christ. We also give our time, resources, and our lives back to the Lord because he has already given us everything we need for life and godliness (*2 Peter 1:3*). We receive salvation, grace, mercy, maturity, correction, among many other things as we strive to have the Lord make us more into the image of his son and our Lord Jesus Christ (*Romans 8:28-29*).

Why do we gather?

We are invited to do so (*Hebrews 4:16*), we come to give thanks (*Psalms 100*), we come to sit at his feet hear his teaching and worship his name (*Luke 10:38-42*), we come because we are called not to forsake the gathering (*Hebrews 10:25*), we grow in the knowledge of God's word and we encourage one another by singing hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs (*Colossians 3:16*, *Ephesians 5:19*), we give God glory honor and praise (*Psalms 29:2*), we gather and know he is with us (*Matthew 18:20*). We gather because God hasn't only saved us individually but he's saved us together as his people. We are joined together (*Ephesians 4*, *1 Corinthians 12*).

What is our aim?

We gather and worship the Lord not to make us feel better, not to make us the center, not to elevate the preacher or the worship band. We gather to exalt the name of Jesus (*Psalms 34*), to center our hearts and lives on him, and to leave our time together not thinking "*that was a great sermon or song*," but we want to leave saying "*wow, what a great savior we have*." We center our lives on Jesus. In short; We Gather at our local church to sit at the feet of Jesus together, listen to his teaching, and worship his name (*Luke 10:38-42*), We Glorify the Lord together by worshiping him in spirit and in truth (*John 4:24*), and We Grow together in Christ by encouraging one another with singing and through the teaching of God's word (*Colossians 3:16*, *2 Timothy 3:16*).

Christ-centered Worship

The planning and intentionality of our liturgy and Sunday morning services help us focus and center our minds on the Lord Jesus Christ. This is something that the church has been doing for thousands of years and is also based on and influenced by Scripture. On the music side of Sunday mornings, we select songs that are anchored in Scripture and speak to themes based on elements found in worship in the book of Isaiah (*Ch. 6*), Sinai worship (*Deuteronomy 5*), Solomon worship (*2 Chronicles 5-7*), Spiritual worship (*Romans 11-15*), and Eschatological worship (*Revelation 4-21*). These themes are: a Call to Worship, Adoration, Exaltation, Congregational Creed Reciting (*a statement of faith based on Scripture*), Confession, Assurance, Thanksgiving, Preaching of the Word, Call to the Table, Communion, Acclamation, and a Benediction. These elements and themes do not need to be used and planned out for every service, but they can be used as a helpful guide on how we can encourage and point the church to Christ.

Role of the Worship team

We all (*the worship team*) serve each other as we praise the Lord and lead God's people in musical, Christ-centered worship. The band leads in musical melodies and song as the congregation joins in lifting praise to our God who is worthy of it all (*Psalms 48:1, Psalm 96:4, Psalm 145:3, 1 Chronicles 16:25, 2 Samuel 22:4, Hebrews 13:15*). The sound team assists the band by providing clear sound for the congregation to sing along with them and have clarity in vocals from the preaching of God's word. The slides team assists the band and congregation by providing words for everyone to be able to sing together with, and slides for the congregation to be able to track along with the preaching of God's word. And the video team helps the whole church by providing recorded video/audio sermons for further reflection, and streaming footage of the service through the whole campus, so people can track along with our gathered worship time. We do this all with gospel excellence, meaning we honor the Lord with the gifts and talents He's bestowed upon us by using them well and being well prepared. And by being skillful (*Psalms 33:3*) with these talents in finding a balance that is not performance-based (*us at the center*) or not lazy (*not giving much care or gratitude*), but one that honors the Lord and glorifies King Jesus, who is the center and focus of our worship.