

Whole Life Worship 1/5

Worshipping engages our whole lives

How do we define 'worship'?

- "Biblical worship is... a response to God's revelation of himself, empowered by the Holy Spirit, which finds expression in every aspect of human life and experience."
(John Risbridger)
- 'Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him for ever.' (Westminster shorter catechism)
- 'We all have a God-shaped hole in our lives...' (Pascal)
- Broadly it may be regarded as the direct acknowledgement of God, of His nature, attributes, ways and claims, whether by the outgoing of the heart in praise and thanksgiving or by deed done in response.
- Greek verbs translated as 'worship' have meanings such as to kiss, to revere with awe and devotion, to serve.
(Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words)

**Worship is a heart response to God's forgiveness.
It focuses our thankful hearts on His mercy.**

What do we have to be thankful for?

What moves our heart to respond to God in thanksgiving?

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12: 1 NIV

SoF 851 *I will offer up my life* - Matt Redman

SoF 1193 *Blessed be Your name* - Matt Redman

What does it mean to offer every aspect of our daily lives to God as a living sacrifice of worship?

12¹⁻² So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. (The Message)

Whole life worship means no sacred-secular divide. God is with us at all times and in all places as we follow Him.

Sunday: worship/ family and friends/ leisure/ finances

Weekdays: workplace/ helping/ visiting/ shopping

Every day: home life/ healthy living/ exercise/ rest

Let God's Holy Spirit transform the way we think. Avoid having our minds influenced by peer pressure or prevailing culture.

What informs our minds and shapes our attitudes?

- God's word, Holy Spirit and Christian input?

- Or news media, peer group, Facebook, TV & radio?

What role does politics play in our thinking?

Do we pray for and/or communicate with our politicians?

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12: 2 NIV

- 'The mind denotes the faculty of knowing, the seat of understanding and the thoughts and counsels of God. It is in the new nature of the believer who is born again and is a source of strength and determination in affliction.'

(Taken from Vine's Expository Dictionary of NT Words)

**Earnestly seek to discover God's will for our lives.
His ways are good and He wants the best for us.**

² Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Rom 12:2 NLT)

**The renewal of our heart and mind enables us to discern the will of God and to commit to following in His ways.
How does that become our living sacrifice of worship?
What kind of decisions will be affected for us?
Our choice of friends/ education/ career/ house/ leisure/
Church/ marriage/ change of job/ upkeep of home/
Holidays/ re-training/ health and wellbeing/family members.**

Conclusion: heart, mind and will come together as we offer the whole of our lives to God in worship.

³ Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. ⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Romans 12: 3-8 NLT

Thanks be to God who called us into the body of Christ.