

A sacrifice of worship – questions to consider / discuss

1. Which of the following Biblical words for “worship” could be appropriate for us today, either on our own or when we meet corporately:
 - Ainos (a story that expresses praise)
 - Epainos (a story that puts God on top)
 - Latreo (worship as “service” or “serving God”)
 - Proskuneo (to prostrate oneself, or lie face-down before God)
 - Sebomai (to “revere” or “adore”)
 - Yadah (to worship with extended hands)
 - Barak (which indicates blessing)
 - Tehillah (to sing praises)
 - Todah and Shabach (shouting praise to God in a loud voice)
 - Hallelujah (which comes from two words: “Hallel” – to boast or brag and “Jah” – a shortened version of God’s name, Yahweh (later translated as Jehovah))
2. If the purpose of creation is to reveal God’s glory, what part can we play in that?
3. Are there any aspects of our lives that are exempt from bringing God glory?
4. Is worship expressed through song primarily for us or for God? How much should our own personal tastes in music affect how we approach worship in this way?
5. Amos 4, v.21-24 says: “I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” What does this tell us about God’s values and priorities?
6. Hebrews 13 says: “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased” (Hebrews 13, v.15-16). What does it mean for you to offer a “sacrifice of praise”?
7. Could / should we include the following types of song in our corporate gatherings:
 - songs of lament (e.g. Psalm 22)
 - songs of confession and repentance (e.g. Psalm 51)
 - songs of intimacy (Song of Songs)
8. What do songs offer that is unique or special? Why not just speak or shout out God’s praises?