

A Brief Biblical Theology of Christian Worship

John 4:14-26 & Selected Scripture

Introduction: *The challenge of defining worship*

"Throughout the Bible, acceptable worship means approaching or engaging with God on the terms that he proposes and in the manner that he makes possible. It involves honoring, serving and respecting him, abandoning any loyalty or devotion that hinders an exclusive relationship with him" (Engaging with God, by David Peterson pg. 283).

Universal principles of acceptable worship across redemptive history

(1) True Worship involves turning our affections *away* from idols to the living God (1 Thess. 1:9)

(2) True Worship consists of revelation & response.

A. Revelation:

B. Response:

Honoring and respecting: *proskynein*
(Gen. 18:2; Exod. 18:7; 2 Sam. 14:4)

Serving: *latreuein* (Exod. 3:12; 4:23; 8:1; Rom 12:1).

(3) True Worship - involves a *genuine heartfelt* response (Deut. 6:5; Ps. 103:1; Isa. 29:13; Ps. 51:16-17).

Principles of Christian (New Covenant) Worship

1 – Christian Worship takes place in and through Christ (Jn. 2:19, 14:6; Heb. 9:1-15).

2 – Christian Worship takes place in Spirit and Truth (Jn. 3:6; 1 Pt. 1:8)

3 – Christian Worship is Christocentric AND Trinitarian (Jn. 5:23; Rev. 5:8ff)