

**Title:** Gospel-Centered Worship

**Passages:** Ephesians 3:20-21; John 4:23-24

**Introduction:**

**Trinity Church Ministry Vision:** to bring glory to God by building up and equipping its members for living out the Gospel in every facet of life. (“Building it up; Living it out”)

**Series Overview:** Gospel-centered...

Preaching and Teaching, Worship, Servant Leadership, Discipleship, Fellowship, Living, Evangelism and Mission

**Question:** what is worship?

Genesis 4:3-5

In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

- two kinds of worship: 1) acceptable to God (Abel) and 2) unacceptable to God (Cain)

Romans 1:21 (unacceptable worship)

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

What kind of worship is acceptable to God?

- centered on Jesus Christ

- reflects the people of God and what kind of people they are in the world.

**Passages:** Ephesians 3:20-21; John 4:5-24

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all that we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

John 4:9

The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

- origin of Samaritans were the remnants of the Northern Jewish kingdom that stayed after many were taken in exile, intermarried with surrounding people, built own worship place

- over time, great animosity grew between Jews and Samaritans (ex: Jews avoided Samaria)

John 4:14

but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

- Key Passage

John 4:16-18

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”

- Jesus addressed her heartfelt pain and situation.

John 4:20

Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.

- at the time, distinct places of worship existed between Jerusalem and Samaria

John 4:21-22

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

- Jews were ignoring the truth (though had God's Word) while the Samaritans were ignorant of the truth

John 4:23-24

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:25-26

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He.

*Deuteronomy 18:15-18* (Messianic prophecy, which the woman knew)

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' And the Lord said to me, They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

- am He = I AM (clear statement of Jesus' deity)

- first and genuine act worship is recognizing Jesus is Lord

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Application - How Worship?** In spirit and in truth

John 4:24

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Isaiah 29:13 (empty worship)

And the Lord said:

"Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,

***Worship in spirit***

- a changed heart

John 3:5-6

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

***Worship in truth***

- focused on the Gospel (life, death, and resurrection of Jesus)

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Colossians 3:16 (true worship is grounded in His Word)

Let the *word of Christ* dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, *singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Hebrews 13:15

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that *acknowledge his name*.

Acts 16:23-25, 30-31 (Word - Worship - Witness)

And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them...* Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

- genuine worship (in spirit and in truth) leads to a transformed life that witnesses to others

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual worship*.