

# Unity in Worship

## John 4:19-26

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### Series Theme: Growing in Unity

**Unity's Benefits** (9/21) – God's refreshing blessing upon the church; credibility of our gospel message; glory to God (Psalm 133; John 17:20-23; Acts 4:32-34; Romans 15:5-6).

**Unity's Model** (9/28) – The Trinity: possessing a common nature; governed by a common truth; focused on a common mission; sustained by a common love; motivated by a common destiny (John 17:20-26).

**Unity's Resources** (10/5) – The benefits of our union with Christ (Philippians 2:1) humbly applied to our relationships (2:2-4).

**Unity's Attitude** (10/12) – Humility: that choice to put aside status and self-preference for the sake of others, as modeled by Jesus (Philippians 2:5-11).

### Are We Confused About Worship?

#### Background:

What is worship? Nowhere does Scripture give a precise definition of worship. The Anglo-Saxon word from which we get our English word is 'weorthscipe', which is tied to the concept of worthiness. Worship is ascribing to God His worth.

The most common Hebrew (Old Testament) word for worship is 'shachah', meaning "to bow down" or to "prostrate oneself". Another common word is 'abad', meaning to serve. The most common Greek (New Testament) word is 'proskuneo'. It literally means "to kiss toward". This was the word used to describe the custom of kissing the feet or hem of a superior. Another common Greek term in the New Testament is 'latreuo', meaning "to serve".

'Shachah' and 'proskuneo', therefore, suggest that worship refers to an inner and outer homage to God as a token of awe and surrender. The other two terms, 'abad' and 'latreuo' suggest a total lifestyle in allegiance to God (cf. Romans 12:1).

Conclusion: Worship is all that I am responding to all that God is.

- Definition: worship is a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
God's supreme value in all of our attitudes, words and actions.

## What does Jesus teach us about worship? (John 4:19-26)

- **Key Verse:** *'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.'* (John 4:23, ESV)
- **The Motivation Issue:** authentic worship arises out of our sense of \_\_\_\_\_ to connect with God, who desires and \_\_\_\_\_ us (4:17-20).
- **The Form Issue:** authentic worship is not an issue of \_\_\_\_\_, or ritual, or \_\_\_\_\_.
  - *"... The hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will your worship the Father."* (v.21b)
- **The 'Spirit' Issue:** authentic worship involves the \_\_\_\_\_ connection of a \_\_\_\_\_ human spirit with the living Spirit of God.
  - *"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."* (v.24; cf. Ephesians 5:18-21)
- **The 'Truth' Issue:** authentic worship involves a \_\_\_\_\_ informed response to a biblically \_\_\_\_\_ God.
  - *"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."* (Colossians 3:16, ESV)

## How Can We Develop 'Unity in Worship'?

1. By \_\_\_\_\_ that God seeks a certain type of \_\_\_\_\_, rather than a certain worship style;
2. By \_\_\_\_\_ the reality that generational and cultural influences impact our worship style preferences, and that no style expressing 'spirit and truth' worship is less \_\_\_\_\_ than another;
3. By \_\_\_\_\_ on how \_\_\_\_\_ over musical preferences must delight the enemy of the church;
4. By \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of songs over the styles of songs.
5. By \_\_\_\_\_ how our level of participation might \_\_\_\_\_ those around us.
6. By \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ those who are willing to serve and lead us when we come together for worship.

*"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." (Romans 12:10, ESV)*

### **For Personal and/or Small Group Reflection**

1. Did you worship God this past week? In what ways?
2. What to you is a good “worship service”? Why?
3. Review John 4:1-26. What was so unusual about Jesus' encounter with this woman?
4. In reading vv. 13-18, what do you see about Jesus?
5. Why do you suppose the woman changed the subject in v.20?
6. What is her question about worship? What side does Jesus take?
7. To what “hour” is Jesus referring in vv. 21 and 23? (cf. 7:30)
8. How did that ‘hour’ impact worship?
9. What does it mean to worship “in spirit”?
10. How might one’s worship not be “in truth”?
11. T or F? Worship is more a service we offer than a service we attend. Defend.
12. Regarding “How Can We Develop Unity in Worship?”, how would you prioritize the 6 points for yourself?