

Intro: What makes up true authentic worship?

Is it loud and celebrative? Is it quiet and reflective? OR Music and Preaching, Drama and Video

Is it drums, guitars a saxophone and a praise team, OR

Is it a piano and an organ, building to a magnificent crescendo with a trained, disciplined choir leading the way?

What makes up true, authentic worship? *Much MORE than just music though we equate the two.*

For the past 25 years or so that question has been at the heart of what many in the US have been struggling with, and the opinions are so varied and the emotions so high...Named! **Worship Wars!**

So, What makes up true, authentic worship? That is the essence of what David is demonstrating for us in 95/96

Psalm 95-96 Page 426 (Journal)

- Half a dozen or so Psalms that make up celebrative section of “Hymnbook” (others reflective, quiet)
- Intended to be *descriptive...not prescriptive!* (this is what we are doing...not this is what we must do!)
- Principles for all situations, all times, all churches, not a checklist of what must happen each time! (1000BC) 3000 years ago...Royal Palace, Temple worship, Mideastern Culture,

4 Underlying Principles That Should Guide All Of Worship

1. The Essence Of Worship is a Heartfelt Devotion to God Expressed in Various Ways.

- **From The Heart: Heartfelt; Sincere, Real, Authentic**
~95, Joy, thanksgiving, extol 96, heavens rejoice, seas resound, fields jubilant
~Not going through the motions, not doing your duty, not punching clock, not phoning it in
~the heart of the worshipper is connected with the heart of God

- **Expressed in Various Ways (3 complimentary tensions)**

~*Words:* Sing/Shout Thanks

~*Actions:* Bow Down, Kneel, Lift hands, Dance; Lie prostrate

~*Giving* Element: What I give: Bring Offering; Make a sacrifice, Declare to others; Lead them

~*Receiving* Element: What I get: Heart encouraged, Spirit lifted, Cares removed

~*Physical:* All the things we do

~*Spiritual:* All the things God does within us!

Authentic worship lives in the world between those tensions...Principles that Guide and inform how we express from the heart how we feel about God.

~Music was loud...REAL worship...Maybe..Maybe not! (Just loud music! Amps overload!)

~Entire room was really quiet..hear a pin drop...REAL worship...Maybe not...Everyone bored asleep!

2. Worship has Both an Individual AND a Corporate Expression.

- **Worship is Individual: True...But Not Exclusively True!**
~There is a private and personal expression of worship that is essential
~That is the part that takes place in the heart. No one else can do that for you
~Because at its core worship is my heart connection with God, If my heart not willing, ready, NOTHING will help that! **ILLUS:** (Got nothing out of it...What did YOU put in?)
- **But, if we think Worship is ONLY personal...we are in error. Because Worship is Corporate!**
~Come, Let **US** worship and bow down!
~Singing by yourself is great in car...sometimes...But...So is singing with 50K Holy, Holy
~**Positive** impact of Corporate worship: Eph speaks of everyone individually bringing their part
~**Negative** impact of Corporate worship: 1 Cor 14 tells us, when my expression of worship becomes a distraction to the body, confusing it, I need to limit my expression to honor body!

ILLUS: 1 Cor 14 Paul's direction on Worship

Everyone brings whatever gift they have...makes us all better

Speaking in tongues: Very biblical, all doing it, Noisy, Out of Control Distracting

Stop doing it...Confusing outsiders come in, Causing message to go unheard!

Don't tell those with that gift "Don't do it" Just say...don't do it here! Others in room!

Every Church develops its own worship culture. Some run in aisles, speak in tongues', wave flags, 100 voice choir wave towels and dance while they sing. Others quiet, very formal; Never raise voice... God loves both! But, we have to be sensitive to and respectful of the culture we attend.

3. Worship Weaves Together 4 Essential Relationships.

- **Exalts God (Primary Focus)**
~Lift Him Up and Declare His Worth: 96:1-8
3 Other Things Going On (Don't get them out of order, but don't Ignore them either!)
Get them out of order leads to all kinds of error and confusion in worship!
- **Encourages the Body**
~We enable/empower others to grow in their relationship with God
~I bring my gift, preaching, Bill brings his, YOU bring yours! Sing, Give, Pray, Praise
~Every Part in the body is essential...When you come ready, you participate, builds me up
~Look at list of gifts..Criticism and sitting like a lump on a log isn't one of them!
- **Evangelize the World**
~Declare His Glory to the Nations
~Say among the nations the Lord Reigns
~1 Cor 14 Paul's sensitivity to those coming in from outside (Seeker sensitive Vs Seeker Targeted)
- **Edifies Me**
~To build up and make strong: When I exalt God, Connects my heart with God and makes me stronger!
~When I truly connect with God it change me, helps me, lifts me up, makes me better
~It is least of all we are to do, but it is an essential element! Byproduct

Most of us tend to think in one or two of these, natural and normal...but...expand your mindset

4. Worship Is to Be Both Transcendent and Immanent.

"Worship is where the Eternity of God and the Everyday Life of Man come together!"

- **Transcendent:** Connects us with the reality of another world. Moves us to connect with heaven
Other words: Mystery, Spirituality, Other,
~**Mount of Transfiguration:** Peter says..Lord ...This is good...I don't know what happened
But I want to build a house and settle down.
We touched heaven...it was awesome
- **Immanent:** Puts me more in touch with what God wants to do here and now!
Touching that other world, equips and empowers and enables me to impact this one!

There is this Cosmic Collision between All of who God is...and Where I live...and it changes me

Psalm 95 first half...All about Transcendent...Then There is this Collision....

Today...If you hear his voice...Do not harden your heart!

Listen...be changed...bring Heaven right down to Earth!

Song: Touching Heaven Changing Earth!

CONCLUSION:

How Do We Respond? Answer Two Questions

How/Why did I come to worship today? (God, Others, Evangelize, Me?)

What Do I need to Change for Next Sunday?

Put God first? Consideration for others? Me last?