



# How to Worship: Becoming a True Worshiper of God

BY SHANE VEINOT / JANUARY 7, 2014



In my two part series titled, “What is True Worship?” I dug into Scripture to explore the

meaning of true worship. But how do you actually become a true worshiper of God? Why isn't there a basic "how to worship" guide for dummies? What kind of people is God seeking to worship Him, like it states in John 4:23?

**"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."**

Some might say that God is looking for good people, people of high moral character, or people who live "perfect" lives. If that were the case, we might feel hopeless. But as we read Scripture, are those the kinds of people the Bible says God has called in the past? Not particularly.

Throughout the history of the Bible, God has called people of all kinds to be true worshipers and to be used by Him for great things. Some were weak, some were strong. Some were young, some were old. Some were humble, some were proud. Some were shepherds, others were kings. One shepherd was even called to be a king.

Throughout the history of the Bible, God has called people of all kinds

Some maintained steadfast belief in God, some wavered and doubted. But what they all had in common is that they loved God, and they allowed themselves to be used by God.

to be true worshipers and to be used by Him for great things.



**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)**

Jesus is recorded in the Gospels as saying that the greatest commandment is to love God. But have you ever wondered exactly what that means? Or whether you actually love God “with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind?”

Look at your life outside of Sunday morning. How do you spend your time? What consumes your thoughts and your energy? What are you passionate about? What are you most focused on in life? Your answers to those questions are a great indicator of your love for God. Would you rather pursue money, a career, and material things? Or would you rather pursue God above all else?

It's also important to understand how God views love. In this Scripture, from the Gospel of Matthew, the Greek word for love that's being used is agape, which William Barclay beautifully defined in his book *New Testament Words*:

**“Agape has to do with the mind: it is not simply an emotion which rises unbidden in our hearts; it is a principle by which we deliberately live.”**

Agape is describing a kind of love where we totally commit ourselves to, and surrender our lives to, God. It means no longer living for ourselves. It means our hearts are totally engaged in worshiping God, as feelings and affections come alive within us as we sing His praises. It means loving God with all our soul by devoting ourselves to Him with the way we live, the choices we make, and the behaviors we adopt. It means deliberately living a life in obedience to God's Word. It means living a life of true worship.

Agape is describing a kind of love where we totally commit ourselves to, and surrender our lives to, God.



It's not a stretch then to say that we express our love for God by living a life of true worship. And just as Barclay noted that agape love has to do with the mind, not simply emotions, and the same is true of our worship. Worshiping God with our minds is crucial, because true worship is a response to true knowledge of God through His Word. When we struggle with the meaning of a passage of Scripture, or with a teaching that appears to be contradicted elsewhere in the Bible, God doesn't want us to simply ignore them – He wants us to stretch our minds and strive to know Him better.

That doesn't mean that if you're not a Bible scholar, or if you don't have a master's degree in theology, or if you never went to Bible school, that you can't be a true worshiper of God. There are no prerequisites you need to take before graduating to "true worshiper" status. The twelve disciples had little more than their personal testimonies and the Old Testament Scriptures at their disposal, but that's all they needed to follow Jesus, spread the Gospel, and change the course of history.

But there's a reason why Jesus doesn't stop after saying "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul." You also need to love God with all your mind, because how can you love someone that you don't know?

If you're married, imagine if someone asked you to describe your wife, and you started to tell them of how she cooks all your meals, does your laundry, and cleans the house. Or imagine if someone asked you to describe your husband, and you told of how he takes out the trash, changes the oil in your car, and mows the lawn. Would that person have an accurate understanding of who your spouse is, and why you love them? Or would they just know about some of the things your spouse does for you?

It's the same with God. If we only know about the things God has done for us, but we don't know anything about God's character, His nature, and the standard by which He asks us to live our lives, we aren't loving God with our minds – and we can't love a God we don't know. God doesn't want us to just love the things He's done for us. He wants us to love Him.

Just like we come to love our spouses by getting to know them better, and spending time with them, the same is true of our relationship with God. We get to know God better by spending time with Him in His Word. And through spending that time with Him, natural affections for Him will begin to grow. So if we're to be true worshipers of God, we not

God doesn't want us to just love the things He's done for us. He wants us to love Him.



only need to have a foundational knowledge and understanding of who God is, but we need to fuse that knowledge of God with the feelings and affections we have for Him in our hearts. Both are critical to Biblical worship.

The more we understand God through the study of His Word, and the greater our love for Him grows in our hearts, the more genuine our worship of Him will become. Then, we will become the true worshipers God has called us to be.

0 Comments

PurposeCity

---

 Recommend

 Share



Start the discussion...

---

Be the first to comment.

---

 Subscribe

 Add Disqus to your site

Privacy

## Shane Veinot



Shane Veinot grew up in the Church, but like many, always felt that there must be something more. Somewhat disenchanted with Church, Shane fully committed to the path he set out on from an early age: a life devoted to business. In 2006, he graduated ...

[More By Author >](#)

 Search



40k

GET INSIGHTS IN YOUR INBOX FREE

john.smith@example.com

SUBSCRIBE

SHOP



On A Path That Is Not My Own...

\$24.99



## Alive & Free

\$26.99



## Alive & Free

\$24.99



## Wonderfully Made

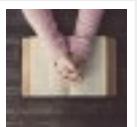
\$26.99

### RECENT POSTS



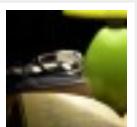
#### Psalm 1: A Provocative Devotion

AUGUST 6, 2015



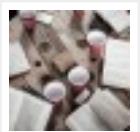
#### Jesus Heals a Paralytic: Individual v. Communal Faith

JULY 29, 2015



#### A Fresh Look at Psalm 119: A Lamp Unto My Feet

JULY 24, 2015



{Insert Controversial Christian Title Here}

JULY 15, 2015



Why Does The Bible Call Us To Forget The Former Things?

JULY 3, 2015



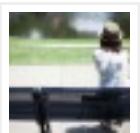
Why Do You Believe What You Believe?

JUNE 26, 2015



Why We Ought To Celebrate Our Heavenly Father This Father's Day

JUNE 19, 2015



Be Anxious for Nothing

JUNE 12, 2015

P U R P O S E C I T Y

PurposeCity.com is committed to Inspiring Scriptural Living through a library of engaging resources built by voices

at the forefront of Christian culture.



---

## SUBSCRIBE

Sign up for our free e-mail list and get the latest PurposeCity insights sent straight to your inbox!

john.smith@example.com

SUBSCRIBE

---

## INSTAGRAM

