



MARKS

O F A D I S C I P L E

7 MARKS OF A DISCIPLE

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV).

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MARK # 4

A DISCIPLE...GATHERS WITH THE CHURCH TO WORSHIP

Optional Resource:
"How to participate in Your Church"
Available online at bellshoals.com/7marks
or on the **Stephen Rummage app** on your mobile device.

INTRODUCTION

The word "worship" originates from "worth-ship," the condition of being worthy. We worship God because He alone is worthy of our worship.

Many churches today call the place where they meet on Sunday mornings the "worship center." Still other congregations call their place of worship a "sanctuary," which means a sacred place. The term "sanctuary" focuses more on where we worship, where the term "worship center" focuses on the act of worship. In this lesson we will explore what it means to worship God and why it is so important for followers of Christ to participate in worship together.

When we speak of Christian worship, the "who" is

much more important than the "where." In the New Testament, references to church never refer to a place of worship but rather an assembly of believers.

WHO WE WORSHIP

We worship God because of Who He is, more than for what He does. In fact, God's character and His attributes dictate what He does.

Read Psalm 135:3, 5.

What two words in this well-known children's prayer describe God?

"God is _____, God is _____, Let us thank Him for our food."

In a very broad sense all of God's attributes fall into one of two categories: His greatness and His goodness. We see a limited reflection of God's goodness in mankind, but the attributes of God's greatness belong to Him alone.

Some of God's attributes are listed below. Which ones show His greatness and which show His goodness?

- Eternal _____
(no beginning or end)
- Sovereign _____
(complete authority over all of creation)
- Omniscient _____
(all knowing)
- Omnipresent _____
(everywhere at once)
- Omnipotent _____
(all powerful)

Immutable _____
(unchangeable)
Righteous _____
Just _____
Loving _____
Faithful _____

Let's explore some attributes from each category.

God's Greatness

Read Psalm 103:19.

God is sovereign and holds absolute authority over all of His creation. How does God's sovereignty impact your life according to Romans 8:28?

Read Hebrews 4:13.

God is omniscient. He knows everything - past, present, and future. How does knowing this affect your daily life?

God's Goodness

Read Deuteronomy 32:4.

What attributes do you see in this verse?

God is just. He is the perfect judge. How should this encourage you, according to Hebrews 6:10?

God is also righteous and faithful. It is impossible for Him to do or cause anything that is wrong, and we can always depend on Him.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

How do you see God's righteousness and love working together in this verse?

HOW WE WORSHIP

Jesus said that true worshippers worship the Father in spirit and truth (John 4:23). In Psalm 122:1, David proclaimed, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Let's see from another Psalm some activities that might constitute worship.

Read Psalm 96.

Match the verse in the left column with the correct activity in the right column

Verse 1 _____

Verse 2b _____

Verse 4 _____

Verse 8 _____

Verse 9 _____

a. Give an offering

b. Praise

c. Preach the Word
and witness

d. Sing

e. Worship

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

What act of worship is prescribed in this passage? What is its purpose?

The style of worship may vary from church to church, but the elements of worship should be fairly constant. A time of praise and worship through singing and prayer is appropriate in every worship service. God's people should be given an opportunity to give tithes and offerings to the Lord's work through the local church. The people need to be challenged and encouraged through the proclamation of God's Word by the pastor. Finally, a time of observing the Lord's Supper should be scheduled periodically to remember the Lord's death until He comes.

WHY WE WORSHIP

Prayerfully read each of the quotes about worship below.

"A glimpse of God will save you. To gaze at Him will sanctify you." Manley Beasley

"As worship begins in holy expectancy, it ends in holy obedience. Holy obedience saves worship from becoming an opiate, an escape from the pressing needs of modern life." Richard Foster

"We only learn to behave ourselves in the presence of God." C.S. Lewis

response to the Father, about intimacy and service, and always lead to transformation!” Tim Hughes

“When God’s people begin to praise and worship Him using the Biblical methods He gives, the power of His presence comes among His people in an even greater measure.” Graham Truscott

“Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which ‘comes upon you,’ but it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.” Graham Kendrick

Earlier we stressed that we worship God because He is worthy of worship. According to these men, what effect should the true worship of God have on us?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18.

As we see God in worship and through His Word, we are transformed into Jesus’ likeness by the Spirit of God.

APPLICATION

Read Hebrews 10:23-25.

In this passage, what three things are we instructed to do in the context of corporate worship?

Verse 23: _____

Verse 24: _____

Verse 25: _____

The first action involves a personal commitment to steadfastness in our faith. The next two actions concern stimulating each other toward good works and encouraging other people. Notice that all three actions take place in the context of meeting together with other believers.

Do you remember a time when you were involved in an activity, either spiritual or social, and you got out of the habit of attending? What factors hindered you from regularly participating?

The same factors can hinder regular church attendance. But the stakes are higher.

Every disciple needs to be a consistently participating member of a church body! This means worshipping with, learning with, singing with, and serving with the Body of Christ; it is much more than just being a “pew sitter.” When you stand before Christ, you will want to hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:21a)

SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSE:

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Hebrew 10:24-25