



David

 LifeGroups
REACH • LEARN • LOVE

A Heart of Worship

Godly People Revere God as Holy

- Godly people revere God as holy
- 2 Samuel 6:1–8; Exodus 25:10–16
- The ark of the covenant was a large wooden chest overlaid with pure gold (3.75' long x 2.25' wide x 2.25' high).
- Inside were the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, Aaron's staff, and a golden urn of manna (Hebrews 9:4).
- Two golden cherubim stood on either end of the "mercy seat" (the lid), facing each other with their wings spread over it.

Ark of the Covenant



Godly People Revere God as Holy

- The ark was the only piece of furniture in the Holy of Holies. There God's Spirit dwelled with His people above the mercy seat between the cherubim (Exodus 25:10–22).
- This was a physical model, a “copy” or “shadow” of what is in heaven – God on His throne, between actual cherubim (Ezekiel 1:26; 10:1; Hebrews 8:5).
- Sometimes, as a title, God is called “the Lord of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim” (v. 2), referring to His Lordship over all the universe and His great power as Lord Almighty (Psalm 80:1; 99:1; Isaiah 37:16).

Godly People Revere God as Holy

- When the people were in the wilderness (recorded in the book of Numbers) and during the conquest (recorded in the book of Joshua), they treated the ark as if God were physically on it.
- The priests carried the ark ahead of the people both to guide them and to carry God's presence with them into battle. But they were supposed to keep their distance, not go near it (Joshua 3:4).
- Every time the ark set out, Moses would say, "Arise, O Lord, and let your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate you flee before you" (Numbers 10:35).

Godly People Revere God as Holy

- When they disobeyed God and lost the battle at Ai, Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown before the ark as if before God Himself (Joshua 7:6).
- When the priests carrying the ark stepped foot in the Jordan, it was at that moment that the river parted (Joshua 3:13).
- The ark was very present in their movements during their time in the wilderness and the conquest, but when we get to the book of Judges, the ark is only mentioned once. It didn't go in and out with them; it stayed in the tabernacle at Bethel and then Shiloh (Judges 20:26–28).

Godly People Revere God as Holy

- The ark of the covenant is not mentioned again until 1 Samuel 4, when it was captured by the Philistines. It was captured because Israel brought it into battle with them again for the first time in generations, but they were just treating it like a good luck charm.
- The priests at the time, the sons of Eli, weren't following God.
- The sons of Eli were cursed by the Lord for doing all kinds of evil.
- Because they used the ark like a good luck charm, the Lord caused them to lose the battle, the ark to be captured, and the sons of Eli to die.

Godly People Revere God as Holy

- But God didn't want the Philistine army to think that capturing the ark meant they had beaten Him, so He supernaturally attacked them.
- They put the ark in their god Dagon's temple, and God made the idol of Dagon fall before it with his head and hands broken off (1 Samuel 5:1–5).
- He afflicted the people with tumors (1 Samuel 5:6–10).
- They finally sent the ark back to Israel, with a gift of five golden tumors and rats (1 Samuel 5:10–6:12).

Godly People Revere God as Holy

- When they returned the ark to the Levite city of Beth-Shemesh, the people rejoiced, but 70 of them who looked inside the ark died.
- Remember what Indiana Jones said in the movie?

Don't Look in the Ark



Godly People Revere God as Holy

- When they returned the ark to the Levite city of Beth-Shemesh, the people rejoiced, but 70 of them who looked inside the ark died.
- So they sent the ark to Kiriath-jearim, where they consecrated Eleazar to guard it, and it remained there for 20 years (1 Samuel 6:13–7:2).
- Saul never tried to bring it to his city or create a temple for it (1 Chronicles 13:3), perhaps out of fear of what had happened to those who had mistreated the ark, which would fit his tendency to operate out of fear.

Godly People Revere God as Holy

- But David made it his first order of business once he became king and established his own city of Jerusalem, because he made worship of Yahweh alone his highest priority as a king after God's own heart.
- David gathered all the able-bodied men as if he were creating an army, but instead of fighting, they worshipped with songs, instruments and dance. They put the ark on a new cart, the same way the Philistines had moved it.
- This was a respectful way to move a holy item in their culture. But God had commanded them to carry the ark by the poles, which always stayed on so that they only ever touched the poles, not the ark itself.

Ark of the Covenant With Poles



Godly People Revere God as Holy

- They were already disobeying God and disrespecting the ark, but then, as the cart bounced around the hill, Uzzah reached out to stop it from falling, and God struck him dead.
- The ark was to be revered as the location of God's holy presence on earth, just as if they were before God Himself.
- They were trying to do something in their own strength, their own way, instead of doing it as God had commanded them. Their intentions were good, but the way to follow God is to do things the way He tells us, not the way we think is best.

Godly People Revere God as Holy

- God is holy and is to be revered. He is not to be used as a magic charm to get what we want. God is to be worshipped, which is when we surrender to Him everything we think, do, or say.
- Because we don't have a physical ark or temple anymore, we can easily forget to take God's holiness as seriously as they did in the Old Testament.
- Because Jesus tore the veil between us and the holy of holies (Mark 15:37–38) and we can enter His presence with confidence now (Ephesians 3:12; Hebrews 10:19), we can easily treat God too causally.

Worship is Central to the Lives of Godly People

- Worship is central to the lives of godly people and godly communities
- 2 Samuel 6:9–15 and Psalm 13
- The text tells us that David was afraid of the Lord after what happened to Uzzah. This was not the healthy kind of fear, a reverence of God as holy.
- He was afraid of what might happen to him if he brought the ark to Jerusalem.
- Some scholars argue that his fear was a positive, an act of humility and reverence for God's holy presence.

Worship is Central to the Lives of Godly People

- David realized that no human, including himself, could ever stand before a holy God based on his own righteousness (Psalm 76:7; 130:3).
- But instead of responding with worship and reverence, David responded with fear and sent the ark to the house of Obed-edom.
- Earlier, when the Philistines had the ark, it was sent to Gath and all their people got tumors. But God blessed Obed-edom, showing David that the ark wouldn't hurt him if he revered it the way he was supposed to. The ark wasn't a danger to those who approached it with reverence; it was a blessing.

Worship is Central to the Lives of Godly People

- The same is true for God Himself. God will bless those who approach Him in worship and humility with “every spiritual blessing ... far more abundantly than all we ask or think” (Ephesians 1:3; 3:20).
- We are called to “fear” God, meaning to revere Him as holy, but we do not need to be afraid of Him.
- Understanding this difference helps us understand what it means to worship, which is what we are made to do.

Worship is Central to the Lives of Godly People

- David brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem with worship by dancing, shouting, instruments and singing.
- He did falter in his faith, but he eventually fulfilled his mission to bring the ark to Jerusalem, to give God's presence a place to dwell in his capital city.
- This is yet another contrast between David and Saul, even though Saul was now gone.
- Saul had never even tried to retrieve the ark, but David vowed to find a "dwelling place" for the Lord in Israel (Psalm 132:2-5).

Worship is Central to the Lives of Godly People

- In the ancient world, it was typical for a king to build a temple for his people's god in their capital city, which David offered to do.
- Saul never did that, but David did, because even with all his faults, worship was central for him. David had experienced the Lord being his refuge and strength during his 20 to 30 years of waiting.
- Now he was bringing God's presence to live among His people, just as God had promised the people coming out of Egypt who then went through their own time of waiting and journeying through the wilderness.

Worship is Central to the Lives of Godly People

- This put worship of the Lord front and center in David's reign.
- Chronicles goes into more detail about how David offered a psalm of thanksgiving and established priests, worship leaders, and musicians to serve regularly before the ark in the tabernacle (1 Chronicles 16), but even here, we see David's heart for worship by the way he danced "with all his might" before the Lord.
- By wearing a linen ephod and bringing the ark to Jerusalem, David was acting as both king and priest, which was exactly what God wanted in a king – someone to point the people to God instead of himself.

Godly People are Unashamed to Worship

- Godly people are unashamed to worship, no matter what others think
- 2 Samuel 6:16–23
- Though David's dancing is described as joyful worship in the story, Michal found it vulgar and dishonorable.
- This doesn't necessarily mean that he was immoral while leaping and dancing in his linen ephod.
- The fact that he was wearing only an ephod and not a king's robes would have been dishonorable to Michal, who had grown up in the palace.

Godly People are Unashamed to Worship

- But the linen ephod was the sacred clothing worn by the priests when they performed their ministry before the Lord, without all the pomp and circumstance of the robes and jewelry of their full regalia (Leviticus 16:4; 23).
- What Michal saw as humiliating, David did as an act of humility in worship. She didn't understand the heart of worship. She only saw what she considered "inappropriate" behavior for a king.
- David reminded her that God had chosen him, not her father or any of her family. He admitted to being "undignified" and "humiliated" in his own eyes.

Godly People are Unashamed to Worship

- This is what worship is – humbling ourselves before the Lord, realizing our place before Him. He is God and we are not.
- This is especially important for the king. In much of the ancient world, kings acted like their own gods and even called themselves gods, but in God's kingdom, His kings were only His representatives (Deuteronomy 17:14–20).
- God was the true king of Israel.
- This was something Saul never understood, but David did.

Godly People are Unashamed to Worship

- We should worship God in humility, seeing ourselves in right relationship to Him.
- When it comes to glorifying God with our lives, we shouldn't worry about what the world sees as "undignified" or "dishonorable."
- This applies to what we do in a worship service or what we do every day when we live our lives as a "living sacrifice" to God as our "spiritual act of worship" (Romans 12:1–2).

Godly People are Unashamed to Worship

- It doesn't matter what the world thinks of us, only what God thinks (Galatians 1:10).
- No matter what others say, like David, we will say, "I will celebrate before the Lord" (verse 21) – the Lord who has rescued me and lifted me up and blessed me, the Lord who has been my refuge and strength in times of trouble.
- Even if I am abased in the eyes of my friends and family and everyone else (verse 22), I will glorify His name! Those who know the Lord will not despise us for it; they will respect us (verse 22).

7 Principles to Plan and Practice Corporate Worship

[Uncategorized](#) | Oct 10, 2016

Follow Us On...



1. True Worship is God-centered

- True worship is God-centered.
- We were created to worship, and we are commanded to worship God only (Exodus 20:3-5; Revelation 22:9) in the ways that He has commanded in Scripture (Ecclesiastes 5:1-7).
- Therefore, as we prepare our hearts for worship we want to emphasize that worship is about God, not us or our preferences.

2. True Worship is Christ-Focused

- True worship is Christ-focused.
- Jesus Christ is the image of God, the creator, sustainer, and reconciler of creation, and the head of the church (Colossians 1:15-20).
- It pleased God to reveal Himself through the Son and to reconcile us to Himself through Jesus' death.
- So with the disciples, we worship Jesus (John 20:28).
- Jesus is the focus of worship because He's the focus of the Father's work (Revelation 5).

3. True Worship is Spirit-Empowered

- True worship is Spirit-empowered.
- The Bible makes it clear that we are born into this world as children of wrath and dead to God. However, by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:1-10), we are made alive to God and dead to sin (Romans 6:1-14).
- Only those who have been made alive and indwelt by the Holy Spirit can truly worship God; these are the true worshipers God seeks (John 4:21-24).

4. True Worship is Word-Based

- True worship is Word-based.
- God's Word is the basis for everything we do in worship (announcements, welcome, singing, praying, preaching, etc.).
- He created by His Word (Genesis 1).
- He sustains His creation by the Word of His power (Hebrews 1:3).
- He came into this world as the Word (John 1:1).
- He saves us by the power of His Word (Romans 1:16).

4. True Worship is Word-Based

- Preaching is the primary form of the Word in our worship because this is the model Jesus and His disciples left us (Luke 4:43; Romans 10:14-15).
- We are commanded to preach the Word until Christ returns (2 Timothy 4:1-2).
- Because true worship is Word-based, when we gather, we want to read the Word, sing the Word, pray the Word, preach the Word, and see the Word (baptism and the Lord's Supper).

5. True Worship and the Whole Person

- True worship requires us to engage God with our whole person.
- Worship is a response, and the worship of God is our response to God: who He is, His ways, purposes, and will.
- True worship requires that we engage God with our minds as we study His Word and seek to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- This is the “truth” component of “spirit and truth” worship (John 4:24).

5. True Worship and the Whole Person

- At the same time, true worship requires that we engage God with our hearts as the fullness of the Holy Spirit in us overflows and causes us to praise God in complete delight.
- This is the “spirit” component of “spirit and truth” worship.
- Our worship, then, should be passionate and Spirit-filled because it is our whole-person (spirit) response to the truth of who God is for us in Christ.
- Each Christian’s whole-person response to the truth of who Jesus is will inevitably look different.

5. True Worship and the Whole Person

- One person will be moved to tears of joy and thanksgiving as he reflects upon the forgiveness of sin applied to him by faith in Christ.
- Another may be moved to joy, raising her hands to heaven in acknowledgement of who Jesus is.
- Someone else may be moved to silent reflection as she ponders the glory of Christ and his gospel.
- While yet another will be brought to his knees in awe as he humbles himself before a holy king.

6. True Worship Results in Edification

- True worship results in edification.
- Though worship is about God and not us, true worship will build up believers in both mind and heart “until we all attain the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man” (Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Corinthians 14:26-40).
- In other words, though worship is all about God, it will benefit us and cause us to grow in our love for Him and one another, for worship has both a vertical (Godward) and a horizontal (corporate) direction.

7. True Worship is About More Than Sunday

- True worship is about more than Sunday.
- As believers in Christ, we are not to neglect gathering together (Hebrews 10:24-25). But we need to remember that under Christ, true worship is an everyday matter.
- We are to give our entire lives over to God as living and holy sacrifices (Romans 12:1-2).
- That means we worship God in how we live, work, and play every single day of our lives.

Worship Resources

