



I will build my church

Celebration: A Worshipping Community



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Worship: A definition

Noun

The feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity.

Religious rites or ceremonies, constituting a formal expression of reverence for a deity.

Great admiration or devotion shown towards a person or principle.

Verb

Show reverence and adoration for (a deity).

Take part in a religious ceremony.

Feel great admiration or devotion for.

Origin

Old English weorthscipe 'worthiness, acknowledgement of worth' (worth, -ship).



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Worshipping Community: A definition?

We are the people of God,
and because we are His,
we worship.

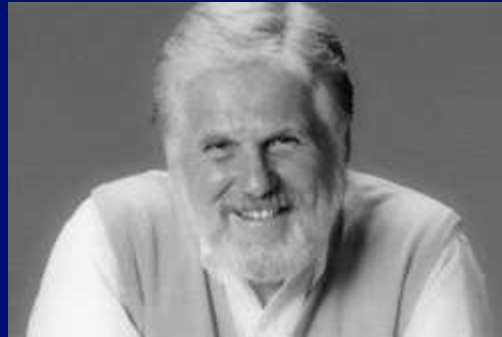
Jack Hayford



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Worship: Who is it for?

Video



John Wimber (1934-1997),
founder of the Vineyard movement.



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Worship: Some theology

Mark 12:30 (NIV): Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.



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Worship: Some theology

Psalm 145:3 (NIV): 3 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV) 8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.



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Worship: Some theology

Romans 11:33-34 (NIV):

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and
knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

“Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counsellor?”



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Worship: Some theology

We ALWAYS have more to learn about God!

“The appropriate response to God is a heart of wonder and awe in the light of his incomprehensible greatness.”



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Worship: Some theology

How can we know the God we worship?

Only as he reveals himself! Through:

Actions – creating, redeeming, judging

Names – the LORD (Yahweh); God Almighty (El Shaddai); Master, Lord (Adoni)

Images – Father, rock, husband, shepherd

Attributes – holiness, goodness, love, grace, wrath



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Worship: Some theology

God as Trinity

The doctrine of the Trinity makes definitive revelation of God possible as he is known in Christ (John 1.18)

The Trinity makes the atonement possible (Hebrews 9.14)

The Trinity shows that God is self-sufficient (Acts 17.25)

The Trinity provides the ultimate model for earthly relationships (1 Cor. 11.3; 12.4-6; Ephesians 4.4-7)



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Worship: Principles

Worship in Spirit and in truth (John 4.23-24)

Worship God in the splendour of his holiness (Psalm 29.1-2)

Worship with humility, reverence and awe (Psalm 95.6-7, Hebrews 12.28)

Worship with our whole selves (Romans 12.1)

Worship now in anticipation of the worship in the age to come (Revelation 4 and 5)



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Worship: Principles

Worship together, **as Christ's church!** He created it by shedding his blood on the cross... (Acts 20.28)

I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (Matthew 16.18)