

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 823

February 19, 2025

“Spiritual Discipline 3 - Worship”

In Reformed theology, **worship** is the reverent and obedient response of God's people to His revealed glory and majesty. Worship is not simply a set of rituals or actions; rather, it encompasses the whole of life, as it is an act of glorifying God through every thought, word, and deed. Worship is both a **response to God's self-revelation** and a **command** to be obeyed, reflecting His holiness, majesty, and grace.

Here is a breakdown of worship based on Reformed theology, with biblical backing:

1. Worship as a Response to God's Revelation

Worship begins with God's self-revelation to humanity. In Reformed theology, the Bible is central because it is God's revealed word, and it is through this Word that worship must be understood.

Worship is not based on human feelings or inventions but is a **response to God's grace and truth**.

- **Romans 12:1**: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."
 - This verse demonstrates that true worship involves offering our whole lives to God, not just performing religious rituals. It is a living response to God's mercies.

2. Worship in Spirit and Truth

Jesus, in His conversation with the Samaritan woman, emphasizes that true worship must be in **spirit and truth**. It is not tied to a specific location or form but is an inward, heart-driven response that reflects the truth of God's Word.

- **John 4:23-24**: "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. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

- Worship must be both genuine (spirit) and aligned with biblical truth. Worship in the Reformed tradition is centered on the **Word of God** and informed by the teachings of Scripture.

3. Worship as Adoration and Reverence

Worship involves ascribing to God the **glory due His name**, and recognizing His sovereignty, holiness, and majesty. This includes both personal adoration and corporate praise.

- **Psalm 29:2**: "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness."
 - Worship is about giving glory to God for who He is and what He has done, acknowledging His holiness and perfection.

4. Worship through the Means of Grace

In Reformed theology, worship is also experienced through the "means of grace," which include the preaching of the Word, the sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper), and prayer. These elements are crucial for the spiritual growth of believers and are seen as means by which God strengthens His people.

- **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**: "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you... the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread... Do this in remembrance of me."
 - The Lord's Supper is a central part of worship, where believers remember Christ's sacrifice and commune with Him in the act of worship.

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, January 19

NO SERVICE AT CHURCH DUE TO WEATHER.

ONLINE STUDY AND PRAYER

Thursday, January 20

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 23

Worship Team Run Through @ 8:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 26, 2025

Wednesday Night Supper @ 6pm

Study & Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 27, 2025

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Helping Hands for

FEBURARY 23, 2024

ProPresenter

Dianne Reinoso

Soundboard

Jane Davis

Live Streaming

Diane Williams

Communion

Kathy Jo Duckett

Greeter

Diane Mack

Scripture Text and Sermon

This Coming Sunday

Spiritual Disciplines for the

Christian Life:

“Evangelism”

Matt. 5:16

1 Peter 2:9

Prophecies O.T.

Revealed....

N.T.

Feb 15 Heb 9:7-14

Feb 16 Lev 16:27

Feb 17 Matt 24:33

Feb 18 Lev 17:11

Feb 19 Matt 26:28

Feb 20 Lev 17:11

GROW

Women of HOPE

Saturdays at 10a.m. at HOPE

2/22/25

HOW CAN WE BEST USE OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS? HOW ARE YOU GIVING BACK TO WHAT GOD GAVE YOU?

Wednesday Night

Supper, Study, and Prayer

NO SUPPER TONIGHT DUE TO WEATHER

ONLINE STUDY AND PRAYER

Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Time @ 7:45 p.m.

“Food of the Month”

for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

Canned Meats and Meals

We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or someone else.

SERVE

TLC Devotion

4th Wednesday each month

@ 11:00 a.m.

5124 Departure Dr # 101, Raleigh

“God sent someone to share the message of salvation in Christ with you.

He sends you now to share that unchangeable message with...”

Prayer Requests:

Dave Rendall, Dale Herriman, Gene & Becky Hale, Sam and Rachael, Krishana, Joan Rollinson, Ron Clifton, Will Floyd's Fiancé's Mother: Jennifer, Jerry & Alice Kinard, Dianne Reinoso, Janice Worthington, Cindy (Elizabeth), Nancy Hutchens (Positive Cancer), Pastor Search Committee, Barbara(81) Stroke, Joey(18) Crohn's, Ebo (Glioblastoma #3/4)-family has 4 children, Youth Ministry, Kathy Jo and her family, Donna Williams & Family, Peggy Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho (Kathy H), Patty Moyer's son Brandon, Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin Broome, The Mallory family, Carol & Colin (Kathy H), Loretta (Sandi U), Joan Summers, Shelley Riggelman (Bruce), Jordan Stevens (Lynn J.), Ellie Tappan, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin, our Military, Police, Fire, and EMS, Missionaries, our Nation.

Proper Christian Perspective:

Worship at worship;

Work at work;

Play at play.

ALL FOR

GOD'S GLORY

Ecclesiastes 3:1

UPCOMING WOMEN OF HOPE GATHERING AT THE CHURCH

2/22/25

HOW CAN WE BEST USE OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS? HOW ARE YOU GIVING BACK TO WHAT GOD GAVE YOU?

3/08/25

TIME MANAGEMENT: HOW DO YOU DO IT ALL?

HOPE Church Raleigh

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

4911 Green Rd

Raleigh, NC 27616

919-508-6827

Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

YouTube.com (type “HOPE Church Raleigh” in the search box)

5. Worship is a Life of Obedience

In Reformed thought, worship is not limited to Sunday services. Worship is a **life of obedience**, where all of life is dedicated to serving and glorifying God in every sphere (home, work, society, etc.). The **whole of life** is an act of worship.

- **Colossians 3:17**: "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
 - This verse teaches that everything in life can be an act of worship when done for God's glory. Worship is not confined to a service but extends to daily life.

6. Worship through the Church

Worship in the Reformed tradition is also communal, as the Church gathers regularly for public worship. In these gatherings, God is praised through the reading of Scripture, the preaching of the Word, singing psalms and hymns, and the administration of the sacraments.

- **Hebrews 10:25**: "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."
 - Corporate worship is essential to the life of the believer. Gathering together for worship strengthens the faith of the community and offers a collective response to God's goodness.

7. Worship as Holistic Transformation

In Reformed theology, worship also means **transformation**. It's not just a ritual but a process by which God shapes the believer into Christ's image, as they engage with Him through the means of grace. Worship is, therefore, a means of sanctification.

- **Romans 12:2**: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
 - Worship involves the renewal of the mind and heart, which leads to transformed living in accordance with God's will.

Conclusion

In Reformed theology, worship is much more than an event or ritual; it is a **holistic, ongoing response** to God's revelation. True worship involves:

- Acknowledging God's glory (Romans 12:1).
- Worshiping in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24).
- Adoring Him for who He is (Psalm 29:2).
- Participating in the means of grace (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
- Living a life of obedience in all things (Colossians 3:17).
- Gathering with the Church (Hebrews 10:25).
- Being transformed into the image of Christ (Romans 12:2).

Thus, worship in Reformed theology is a life that continually responds to God's grace, a life that is shaped and transformed by Him, and a life that seeks to glorify Him in all things.